Entertainment / A2-1

Maricel waives 20% increase to support ABS-CBN

■ Business / B2-1

Attention entrepreneurs: Here are ventures for P500,000 or less

■ News / A2

House plays edited Gloria-Garci tape, finally

■ Metro / A24

2 ex-UP professors face 17-year jail terms for graft

■ Lifestyle / E2

Becky Garcia could have danced all night at engagement party

Peso falls near record low; BSP intervenes

By Doris C. Dumlao
Business

THE PESO yesterday fell close to its record low of 56.45 against the dollar, spooked by growing uncertainty over the fate of President Macapagal-Arroyo as she faces mounting calls to step down.

PESO/ A4

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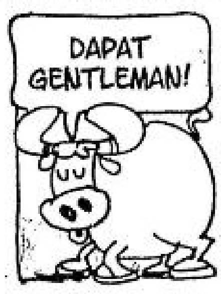
Lawmaker warns Gonzalez on 'male chauvinist' mouth

By Philip C. Tubeza and Blanche S. Rivera

THE TALKATIVE Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez was yesterday warned by a feminist lawmaker to watch his "male chauvinist" mouth.

LAWMAKER/ A8


DAPAT GENTLEMAN!

E-VAT drives up prices

Higher oil, LPG, electricity, toll rates face consumers today

By Abigail L. Ho, Michelle V. Remo and PDI Research

HIGHER fuel prices, higher power rates, higher toll fees and higher prices of other goods and services will greet Filipinos today with the implementation of the 10-percent expanded value-added tax (e-VAT).

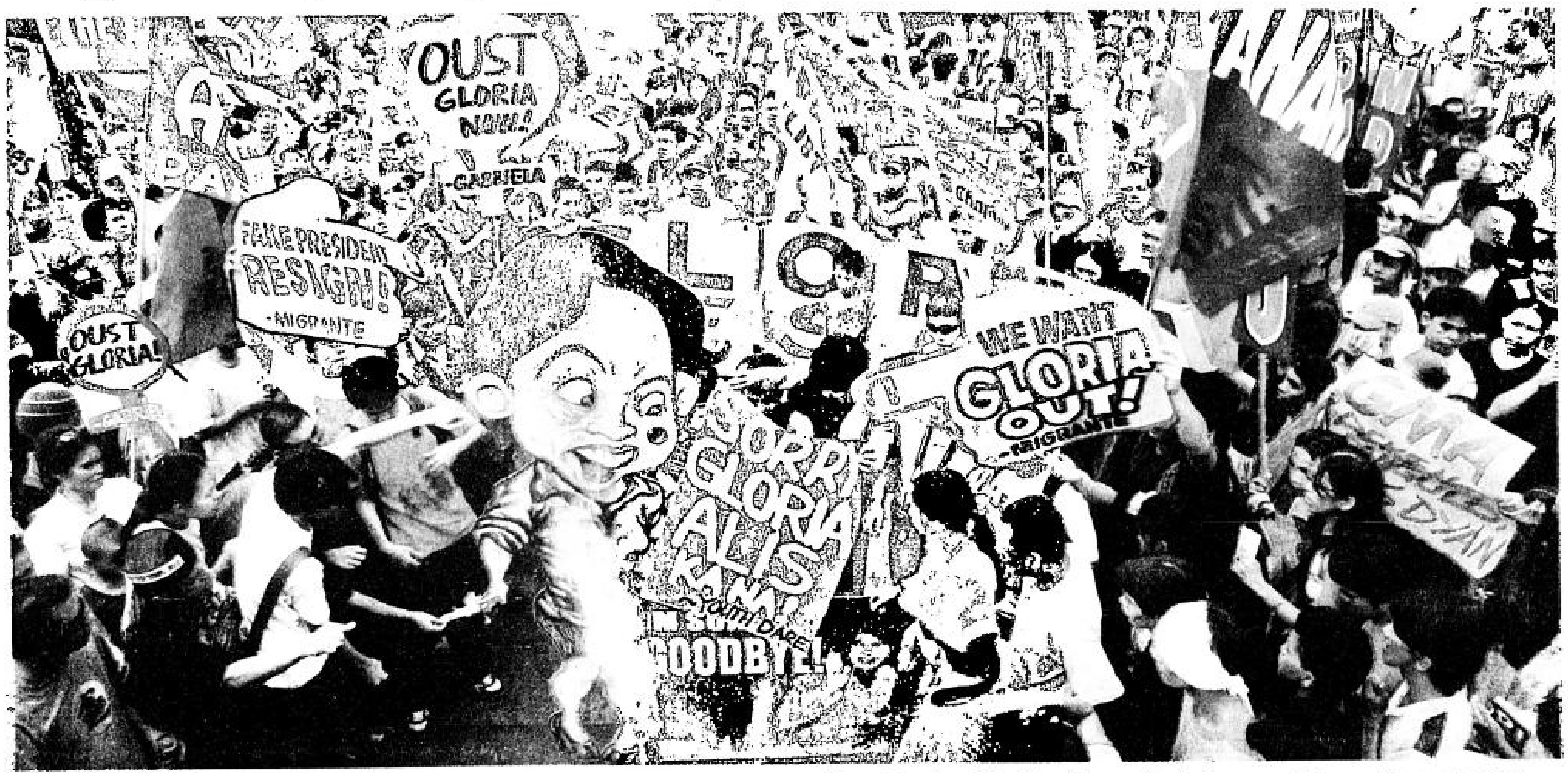
The implementation of the e-VAT and the country's worsening economic situation might finally drive people to the streets to topple the Arroyo administration, an American think tank, which correctly predicted the downfall of President Joseph Estrada, said Monday.

Strategic Forecasting Inc. (Stratfor) said that while the opposition had not been able to gather huge demonstrations against President Macapagal-Arroyo, that could change with the implementation of the e-VAT.

With the e-VAT, the Department of Energy estimates that prices of petroleum products will increase as follows: diesel by 55 centavos a liter, unleaded gasoline by P2.60 a liter, regular gasoline by P2.01 a liter, kerosene by 55 centavos a liter, bunker fuel by P1.22 a liter, and LPG by P29.87 per 11-kg cylinder.

In May, Manila Electric Co. placed the increase in power rates at 80.56 centavos per kilowatt-hour based on the April billing. This means a household consuming 200 kWh of electricity a month would pay P1,622.26 instead of P1,454.77.

E-VAT/ A22


OUST GLORIA NOW!
GABRIELA
FAKE PRESIDENT RESIGN!
MIGRANTE
OUST GLORIA
WE WANT GLORIA OUT!
MIGRANTE
SORRY GLORIA ALIS KANA!
GOODBYE!

PLAZA Miranda bursts with color and turns into a carnival of protest as militant groups demand the resignation of President Arroyo. The festive assembly is one of several pocket rallies simultaneously held in Metro Manila and in other parts of the country on Thursday. Protesters vow to hold daily rallies. The Philippine National Police is on full alert. REM ZAMORA

Militants' rallies start countdown

By Tarra Quismundo, Jhunnex Napallacan and Christian V. Esguerra

IN WHAT IS being viewed as a new tack in their campaign to force President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down, militant groups held separate, simultaneous rallies in Metro Manila and in other parts of the country, thus possibly dividing the attention of the police.

Just as employees were leaving offices in the Makati central business district, some 1,500 people, mostly factory workers, marched along Ayala Avenue.

At Plaza Miranda in Manila, some 800 members of militant groups Kilusang Mayo Uno and Anak Bayan also staged a rally.

Hundreds of people from Manila, including Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna and some members of the city's minority bloc, were expected to join the rally in Makati.

However, the vice mayor was quick to add that he would not lead the Manila delegation, saying he was merely invited by the political leaders of the United Opposition.

As Bayan leader Renato Reyes, actor Rez Cortez and Fr. Joe Dizon spoke at Plaza Miranda, the protesters cheered and called on Ms Arroyo to resign.

"We are doing a countdown of Gloria's downfall," Bayan Muna deputy secretary general Robert de Castro said.

He said yesterday's rally was just part of a series of protests against the Arroyo administration.

Even the police believed in what the protesters were fighting for, he said.

"They promised to hold their demonstration peacefully so we allowed them to stay in the area as long as they vacate the place without any fuss," Western Police

MILITANTS/ A8

Cory advises Susan: Stand by Constitution

FORMER President Corazon Aquino has again visited the widow of Fernando Poe Jr.—their second meeting in three weeks—but the heroine of Edsa I indicated that she was not keen on another "people power" uprising.

Aquino called on Susan Roces at the Poe residence in San Juan on Wednesday evening, hours after the actress delivered a fiery speech against President Macapagal-Arroyo that, according to members of the opposition, reflected the public sentiment.

In that speech, Roces accused Ms Arroyo of twice stealing the presidency, demanded that the latter step down, and suggested that she would take part in protests to force Ms Arroyo's resignation.

Aquino herself disclosed the visit in a statement that she read yesterday on television. She said she congratulated Roces for "the passion of her speech and the sincerity of her convictions."

But she said she "made it clear" to Roces that she would always stand by the Constitution in effecting "even the most difficult political changes."

Malacañang immediately ex-

CORY/ A8

OUT of harm's way: Mr. Mike Arroyo leaves for Hong Kong via PAL on Thursday with son Dato (behind), daughter-in-law Kakai and their daughter. The first couple's only daughter Luli (right) sees them off at the airport. ROGER MARGALLO

Mike A flies to HK as Pidal case resurrected in Senate

By Nikko Dizon and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE HUSBAND of President Macapagal-Arroyo left for Hong Kong last night, a day after she announced his voluntary self-exile as she attempted to regain confidence in her government rocked by allegations of vote-rigging.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo was accompanied on Philippine Airlines Flight 310 by his son Diosdado and his wife Ma. Victoria, and the couple's daughter Eva Victoria. Only daughter Evangeline Lourdes saw them off.

Father and daughter tightly embraced each other, both appearing to hold back tears. They declined to talk to reporters. The First Gentleman's final destination could be the United States, said his lawyer.

Ms Arroyo announced Monday her husband had volunteered to leave the country "to remove himself from any situation which will cast doubt on my presidency." A lawyer, Jose Miguel Arroyo has been implicated in illegal gambling payoffs.

The First Gentleman's departure followed Ms Arroyo's confession hers was the voice in a wiretapped telephone conversation which the opposition said showed she attempted to rig the 2004 election.

The First Couple's son, Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, is also leaving the country next week, possibly to join his father in the United States, a Congress colleague said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the First Gentleman was not fleeing the country and would return if asked to answer allegations against him in connection with the "jueteng" scandal.

Bunye said what was important was that the First Gentleman was far away from the intrigues that some people try to draw him into. "But he is not facing any case, there has been no charges against

MIKE A/ A22

Yap first to leave GMA Cabinet

By Blanche S. Rivera

AGRICULTURE Secretary Arthur Yap announced his resignation yesterday—the first member of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet to leave in the "Gloriagate" fallout.

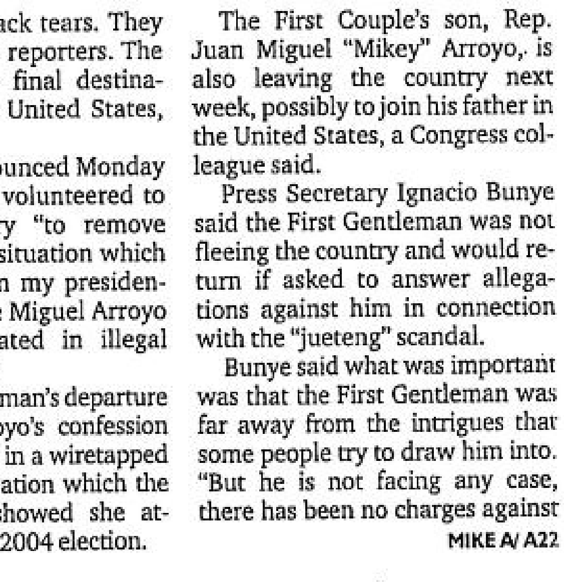
With a tax evasion charge hanging over his head, Yap said "to stay on while this case is pending is a no-win situation for myself and the President I serve."

The 39-year-old Yap was once a favorite economics student of Ms Arroyo. He was invited to join the Cabinet 10 months ago.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue filed charges against him two weeks ago for allegedly failing to pay P4 million in real estate taxes in 1997. He was the first casualty in a widely publicized campaign against high-profile tax evaders.

Yap has denied the charge. He had complained

YAP/ A22


JOAN BONDOC

LAST straw for Agriculture Secretary Yap was being closely identified, he says, with Mr. Mike Arroyo.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/07/01/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Rains

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Second FrontPage

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House plays tape, finally

By Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

AFTER hours of seemingly endless debate, administration legislators at the House yesterday finally agreed to play the controversial "Gloriagate" tapes in open session.

The five committees conducting the investigation voted to carry a motion from Minority Leader Francis Escudero to play the CD version of the tape that lawyer Alan Paguia submitted to the House last week.

But before Escudero's motion could be put to a vote, administration legislators sought to amend it to their satisfaction.

Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan said the majority was willing to have the tapes played if Paguia submitted to the House the two audiotapes from which he said he had copied his version of the tapes.

"My amendment to the motion is very clear—for the two original tapes of Mr. Paguia to be brought here and played in open session," Libanan said.

However, the chairs of the five committees ruled to vote on Escudero's original motion.

The administration lawmakers said they were allowing the playing of the tape to dispel claims they were trying to hide the truth from the people.

When voting ended at 9 p.m., an overwhelming majority of the five committees' members supported the Escudero motion.

Speaker Jose de Venecia voted "yes," but did not explain his vote.

Opposition Rep. Agapito Aquino said he accepted the President's apology but voted yes because the "reality is there was cheating in the last elections (which) is a criminal offense."

Administration allies who supported the position of the majority could not hide their reservations.

Explaining his vote, Rep. Salacnib Baterina said he did so "with a heavy heart because that's the party stand," but insisted the tape was not authentic.

Rep. Eduardo Zialcita said the administration was not hiding anything but all "Gloriagate" tapes must be heard by Congress.

"We are all after the truth. We must listen to all other types of truths. We're after transparency."

Rep. Hermilando Mandanas voted yes "although it is not the true, complete and real tape."

Rep. Rodolfo Antonino said he was saddened because of the "propensity to take the easy way out for convenience."

"I vote yes if only to show the Filipino people that we are in search of the truth. God help us all," Antonino said.

From the opposition camp, Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara captured the sentiments of his colleagues in the minority when he said: "The House of the Filipinos must assert its duty to balance any possible abuse of power on the part of the executive. If not, history will not look kindly on us. The time is now. There is the possibility of abuse of powers (from) an extraordinary individual [who is] no less than the President."

Rep. Teofisto Guingona noted the President had apologized but it must be "accompanied by full disclosure and proper accounting."

To the lawmakers who voted against the motion, the Anti-Wiretapping Act and the Constitution should not be transgressed.

"The tape will be opened and heard by our people. But these tapes that we are going to hear are not pure; they are adulterated, tampered, filled with corrections and splicings,"said Rep. Roger Mercado, insisting the President did not cheat in last year's polls.

Rep. Mat Defensor said Congress was poised to hear a "poisoned tape." He described the tape as "mangled, edited and altered."

Civil society groups ask Comelec execs to quit

CIVIL society groups yesterday urged all the commissioners of the Commission on Elections to step down in the light of allegations of electoral fraud in last year's polls.

The groups, however, banding together under an alliance called "Citizens' Assembly for Truth," said they were "suspending" judgment on President Macapagal-Arroyo, whose wiretapped conversations with a purported Comelec official led to accusations she had cheated in the May 2004 presidential elections.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., meanwhile, rejected calls for snap elections, saying Vice President Noli de Castro was entitled to take over if President Macapagal-Arroyo steps down.

"Assuming the President's position becomes vacant, following the Constitution, we have the Vice President. I don't think Vice President De Castro will resign as well," Abalos told reporters.

He said, however, the Comelec was ready to conduct snap polls for president and vice president, for which it would need to spend about P4 billion.

Election Commissioner Mehol Sadain admitted the Comelec's image, including its ability to conduct fair snap elections, had suffered because of the "Gloriagate" scandal. *DJ Yap and Jerome Aning*

Loren makes P4-M deposit for poll protest

By Cynthia D. Balana

LOREN Legarda, the former senator and defeated vice presidential candidate in the 2004 elections, yesterday made a P4.08 million cash deposit with the Supreme Court to fund an election recount in connection with her election protest against Vice President Noli de Castro.

The SC, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, is hearing Legarda's protest which would involve a recount of ballots and re-tabulation of election returns and certificates of canvass for the vice presidency in four pilot provinces.

Legarda asked the SC for a speedy resolution of her election protest "in view of recent events and developments."

She said the public protests against President Macapagal-Arroyo—after she admitted to having called an election official while the votes were still being counted in last year's elections—have pushed the issue of presidential succession to the forefront.

"The question of succession has become critical and immediate because a great number of our people question the qualifications of De Castro to assume the presidency, aside from the issue affecting the legitimacy of his election," Legarda said.

Ms Arroyo and De Castro were proclaimed winners of the 2004 elections by Congress acting as the National Board of Canvassers.

The late Fernando Poe Jr., Ms Arroyo's main opponent, and Legarda filed election protests before the PET, claiming they were both cheated. Poe's protest was dismissed after he died last December.

The partial cash deposit was for the recount of ballots and the re-computation and revision of ERs and the COCs in the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Surigao del Sur and Cebu.

Of the amount, P2 million represented partial cash deposit for returns from protested precincts in Cebu while the remaining P1.8 million was for the re-tabulation of votes cast in 3,769 precincts in the remaining Mindanao provinces.

Legarda said the so-called "Hello Garci" tapes, containing alleged wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and Comelec commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, specifically mentioned the Mindanao provinces that she claimed were where the alleged fraud took place.

De Castro's lawyer, Armando Marcelo, said Legarda must deposit the full amount for the recount, not just a partial deposit.

He said Legarda's inability to post the required total amount to finance her protest was delaying the proceedings.

Legarda also castigated De Castro for declaring that he was prepared to take over as President were Ms Arroyo to resign or be impeached.

She said De Castro was doing a disservice to the country by such a declaration when he was "only a presumptive vice president."

"The least that he can do at this time of crisis is to be patriotic. Do not inflict yourself on the people," Legarda said.

The two former broadcasters were colleagues at the ABS-CBN television network before entering politics.

PAGCOR: BEYOND BREAKING INCOME RECORDS

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR) reaffirms its position as one of the country's biggest profit-makers and most reliable provider of much-needed revenues for the government by posting an unprecedented total income of P7.50 billion in the first four months of 2005 alone. This amount reflects an increase of P36 million over the total income of P7.14 billion posted during the same period last year.

With this strong opening, the state-run gaming firm is confident that it will surpass its record-breaking P21.9 billion total annual income in 2004 and breach its target income of P23.41 billion for 2005.

"PAGCOR is propelled by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's directive to all government agencies, especially the income generators, to aid her in ensuring the smooth implementation and success of her economic reform agenda for the country," PAGCOR Chairman and CEO Efraim C. Genuino said.

"For our part, we have strictly adhered to the austerity measures instituted by the President and have doubled our efforts in generating more funds to support the government's socio-civic projects. I am proud to say that we have been highly successful in our endeavors," he added.

Of total PAGCOR's winnings, 5% goes to the Bureau of Internal Revenue as franchise tax. Then, 50% of the balance is remitted to the National Treasury as the government's mandated share while another 5% goes to the Philippine Sports Commission.

Aside from these, PAGCOR also supports other legally-mandated beneficiaries such as the Board of Claims, the local governments of casino host cities and vital laws such as the Early Childhood Care and Development Act, the Gasoline Station and Training Loan Fund, the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, among others.

"Ultimately, the success of PAGCOR is the success of the nation as a whole. This is so because all our income goes back to the government and to the Filipino people," the PAGCOR chief said.

Continuing on a winning streak

Since he took office in February 2001, Chairman Genuino has been credited as the man behind PAGCOR's outstanding revenues. Each year, he continues to drive the corporation to new record-breaking income heights.

In the first year alone, PAGCOR posted a P17.46 billion total annual income, which is 19.4 percent higher than the P14.62 billion total annual income for 2000. On the other hand, the state-run gaming firm emerged triumphant with a record-breaking total income of P20.21 billion in 2002 or an increase of almost 16 percent from the previous year.

The 2002 income earned for PAGCOR the distinction as the top money-making corporation in the Philippines, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission. With profits of over P11 billion in that year, the corporation beat Mirant and Globe Telecommunications.

In 2003, despite the adverse effects of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak, terrorist threats and the war in Iraq, PAGCOR was able to generate a total income of P19.43 billion, which is only slightly lower than the 2002 income. This is a remarkable feat considering that other countries with casino gaming suffered massive losses because of dwindling tourist arrivals.

Meanwhile, the year 2004 was a milestone for PAGCOR, with the corporation earning a phenomenal income of P21.9 billion, the highest-ever in its 22-year history. This amount is a remarkable 13 percent increase from the P19.43 billion total annual income posted in 2003 and breaks the previous record of P20.21 billion set in 2002.

Under the direction of the PAGCOR Board of Directors, with Chairman Genuino at the helm, the state-run gaming firm has evolved into one of the most professional and transparent government agencies in the country today.

Meanwhile, PAGCOR chief cites each one of the state-run gaming firm's 12,000 employees for their hard work and dedication. "The employees are the lifeblood of the corporation. Without them, all these would not have been possible," he said.

Bagong Nayon Pilipino-Entertainment City Manila

Corporate social responsibility

Over the years, PAGCOR has been one of the government's most active partners in nation-building and poverty alleviation. The earnings generated by the corporation have been instrumental in the construction of school buildings, homes for street children, and decent dwellings for the poor. Part of PAGCOR's revenues has also been tapped for the installation of potable water systems in rural communities and the implementation of livelihood projects.

Government hospitals and medical missions have likewise received assistance from PAGCOR in the form of equipment and supplies, medicines, hospital beds, wheelchairs, bed sheets, among others. Funding assistance has also been extended to assist social rehabilitation and charitable projects, which benefited orphans, persons with disabilities, and the aged, among others.

One of the biggest projects of PAGCOR is the Patubig ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, an on-going program with the aim of providing all waterless barangays in Metro Manila and the nearby provinces access to clean and potable drinking water. From the initial target of 160,000 families, the project benefited more than one million households in total.

Another is the Sulong Barangay, an umbrella project which seeks to empower the smallest units of government, the barangays. One of the components of the program is to teach the barangays to be partly, if not completely self-sufficient by introducing alternative sources of income. PAGCOR set up water refilling stations in strategic areas in Metro Manila which are being operated by the barangay council under close monitoring by PAGCOR. Proceeds are used by the barangays to fund the implementation of their various community development projects.

The PAGCOR vision

PAGCOR, under the leadership of Chairman Genuino, is undergoing an exciting transformation. Envisioned to become a global corporation with a global mindset and a Filipino heart, PAGCOR sheds its image of a locally based casino gaming enterprise into a top-notch provider of world-class entertainment.

In line with the economic development plan of President Arroyo, PAGCOR is tasked to help revitalize Philippine tourism by developing the country's first Special Economic and Tourism Zone. Hence, the Bagong Nayon Pilipino-Entertainment City Manila was born.

The proposed Bagong Nayon Pilipino project is the first-of-its-kind in the region. It is a massive, fully-integrated entertainment and amusement complex offering wholesome fun, thrill and excitement for people of all ages.

Although, designed to be a global City of the Future, it will reflect the best of the natural charm, vibrant culture and warm hospitality of the Filipinos.

The Bagong Nayon Pilipino is set to rise on a stretch of prime reclaimed land between Roxas Boulevard and the panoramic Manila Bay. It is easily accessible from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), seaports, as well as the major commercial and urban centers.

The project will be divided into specialized areas which will feature: first-class theme hotels, amusement parks, educational and cultural complexes, shopping malls, a commercial district, sport stadia, restaurants, convention halls, state-of-the-art theaters, gaming centers, race tracks, residential villages, a hospital district, and other facilities at par with international standards.

One of the much-awaited highlights of the project is the transfer of the Nayong Pilipino Park to the site as one of the project's first locators. The Nayong Pilipino is a unique, interactive educational park featuring miniature versions of renowned Philippine tourist attractions. It showcases the country's rich cultural and historical heritage as well as true-to-life depictions of its natural and made-made wonders.

It is along this model that PAGCOR is envisioning the implementation of the Bagong Nayon Pilipino-Entertainment City Manila to establish the Philippines as the new entertainment capital of Asia.

In the face of growing competition in the region, this project will be the Philippines' edge over the developments happening in other countries such as Singapore, Macau, Thailand, Hong Kong, Malaysia and others.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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BIR chief goes after classmate

By Cynthia D. Balana

THERE are no friends or classmates, only national interest.

This seemed to be the battlecry of Internal Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno when he slapped a former classmate at the Asian Institute of Management, Luis Yu Jr., with tax evasion charges yesterday before the Department of Justice.

In filing the case, Parayno said Yu, board chairman and president of New Pointe Realty & Development Corp. (NPDRC), has been identified as one of three responsible officers of the company accused of underdeclaring their corporate income tax in 2002 and 2003 by P46.2 million.

He said the accused submitted false and fraudulent income tax returns, and was found to have total income tax deficiencies amounting to P26.7 million, inclusive of civil penalties.

Parayno said he tried to contact Yu, his classmate in the masteral course through other classmates in their AIM batch, to no avail.

"I gave my contact numbers to my classmates to enable Mr. Yu to contact me. And I told him through friends that I could send him basic documents to help him correct his company's deficiencies," he said.

The BIR said it uncovered NPRDC's underdeclaration of its income taxes for 2002 and 2003 from certified copies of documents it obtained from Revenue District Offices in Cebu City and San Juan, Metro Manila.

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HONDA'S 1st 2005 MOTORCYCLE JAMBOREE

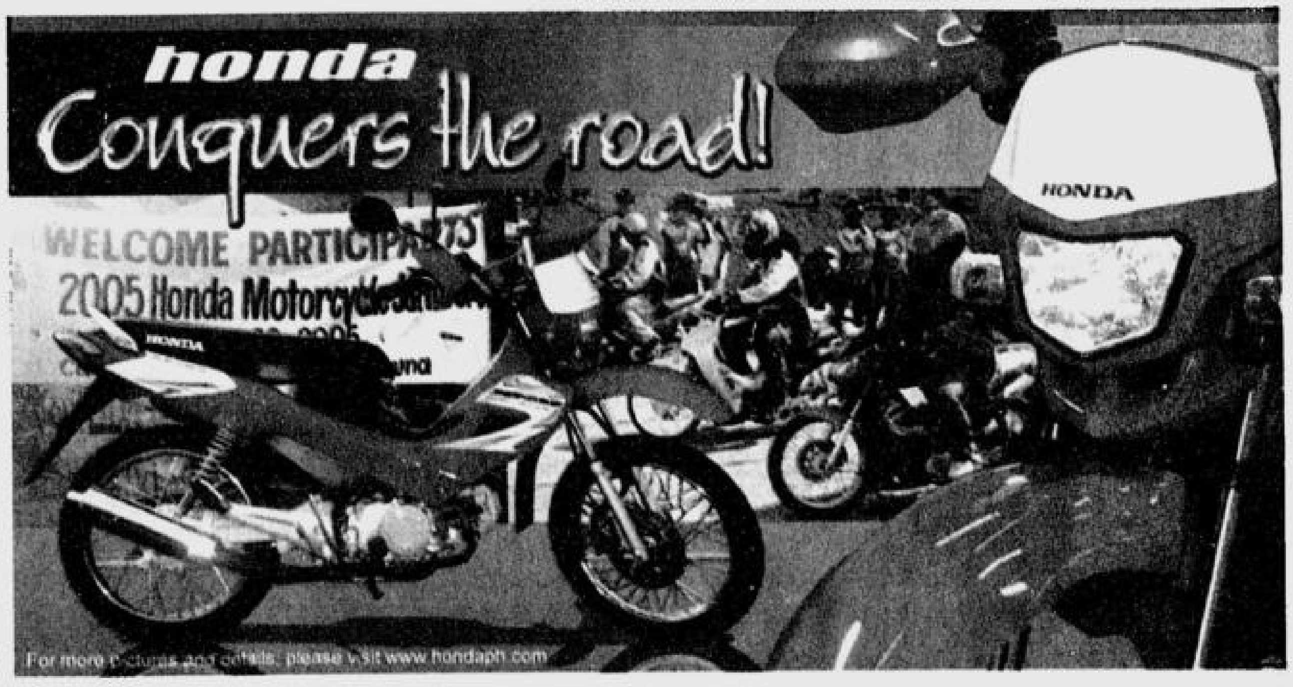
Breaking all records, Honda continued to dominate the market by being the consistent #1 brand in the motorcycle industry from January to May 2005. Honda has captured 63% of the total market registering the highest sale of 26,325 units for May alone .

Because of its commitment to Total Customer Satisfaction and as a means of increasing product awareness and promoting Safety Riding, Honda Philippines, Inc. organized and hosted the 1st Honda 2005 Motorcycle Jamboree. Honda believed that the Jamboree would develop camaraderie among its riders by sponsoring two fun-filled days of competitions, learning and excitement.

The two day event was held in Caliraya Springs, Laguna, a campsite whose terrain was perfect for motorcycle activities. Over 600 riders registered for the event which started with a motorcade of XRM110, Wave 125S, Wave Alpha, Dream and XR200. Food, drinks and tents were provided by Honda. The afternoon was packed with games and activities such as the Turtle Race, Figure 8 and Wooden Plank where riders had the opportunity to show off their skills and proficiency.

As the sun set on the horizon and the night grew cooler, temperatures soared again when sexy star Allona Amor , the Fruitcakes, and an assortment of entertainers from Amay Bisaya Production performed on stage. Non-stop dance music was provided by The Multi-Vitamins Band who encouraged riders to sing and dance with them. The riders partied till the wee hours of the morning before calling it a day. The event was also sponsored by Ginebra San Miguel Inc. (GSMI) and Unioil. Watch out for the next Honda Jamboree schedule in Cebu and Davao.

HONDA
The Power of Dreams



honda
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WELCOME PARTICIPANTS
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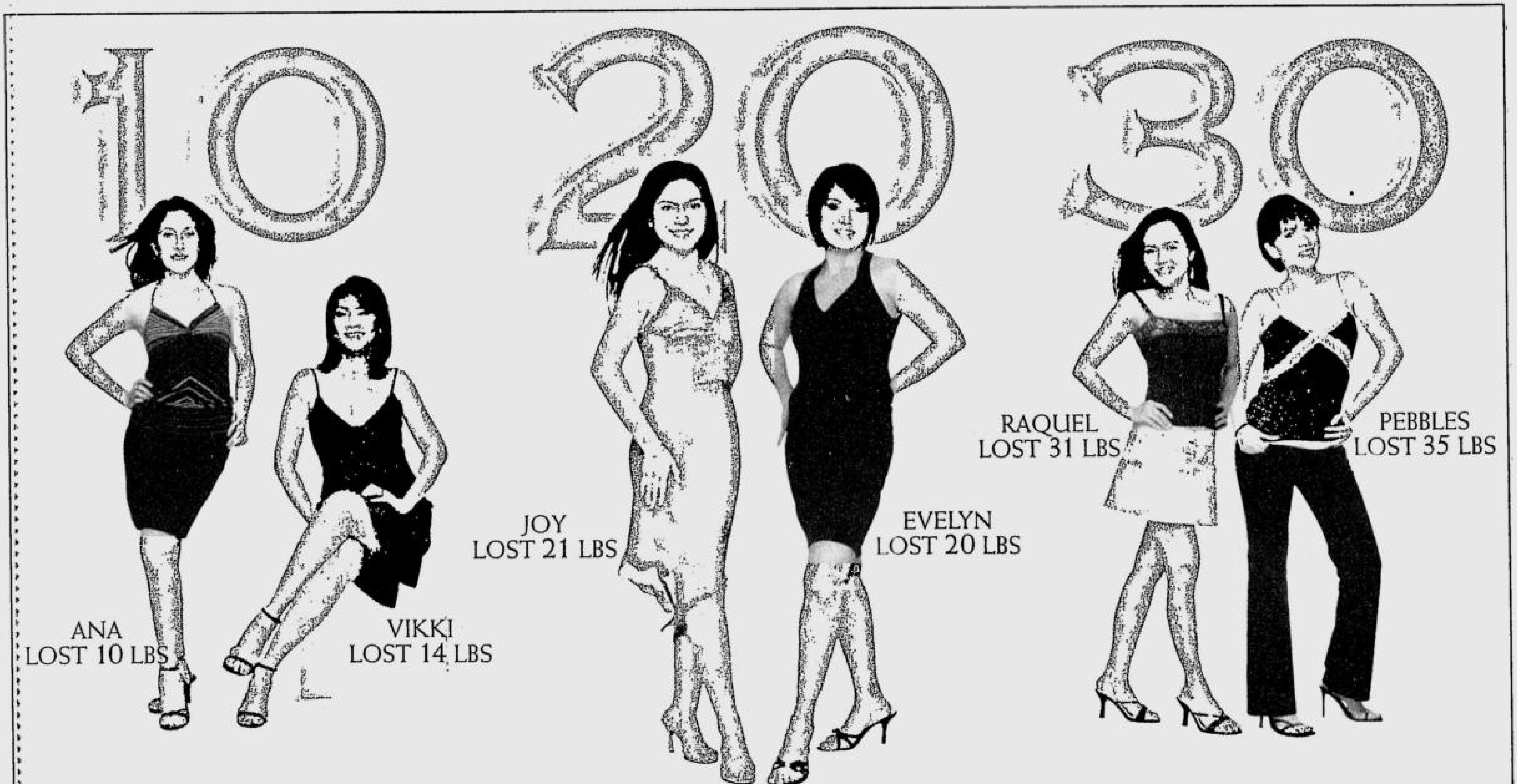
HONDA

For more pictures and details, please visit www.hondaph.com
HONDA
The Power of Dreams



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Peso falls near record low; BSP intervenes

From page A1

The peso plunged to as low as 56.255 against the dollar at the Philippine Dealing System, but managed to close at 56.00 due to the intervention of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. The local currency finished at a five-month low of 56.05 on Wednesday.

Traders said the BSP unloaded dollars near the peso lows between 56.15 and 56.20 to limit the local currency's slide. "Talk that the BSP was intervening sparked selling (of US dollars) toward the end of close of trading," a currency trader said.

Stocks tumble

The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange Index also fell 20.89 points, or 1.1 percent, at 1,924.23, following Wednesday's 0.5 percent decline. Thursday's fall brings the total index loss to 2 percent in the last three sessions.

"People are jittery because of the political situation," said BPI Securities senior manager Roberto Cano. "Investors are liquidating and taking profits, because they know there are some problems ahead."

The sagging fortunes of the peso and local stocks appear tied to plummeting popularity rating of Ms Arroyo amid allegations that she had rigged the 2004 presidential election and charges that her husband, son and brother-in-law had received payoffs from illegal gambling lords.

Ms Arroyo is trying to win back popular support after apologizing for an impropriety in the 2004 election, but investors are worried that political controversy would leave her unable to govern just over a year into her new six-year term.

FPJ widow

"We continue to see further tests towards the 56.30-56.75 levels in the coming days as the dark clouds on the horizon have turned into a political storm," a currency dealer at local commercial bank said. The dollar's general strength also added to the pressure on the peso.

Luz Lorenzo, an economist at stock brokerage ATR Kim Eng Securities, said the widow of actor Fernando Poe Jr., Ms Arroyo's main rival in the last presidential race, had raised political tensions.

But Lorenzo said the move by actress Susan Roces in joining calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation would not likely trigger a mass uprising.

"After the two people-power style ousters of presidents in two decades, we believe the average person is more demanding and more discerning of potential claimants to the office," she said.

"This is not to say that we believe President Arroyo can safely hold on to her position. That will be determined by how she and her administration reacts to the continuing blows that will surely be thrown her way by an opposition that has now been emboldened by the appearance of a credible central figure," she said.

"Quick dramatic reforms and calmness amid the political crisis are the demands of the time," Lorenzo said.

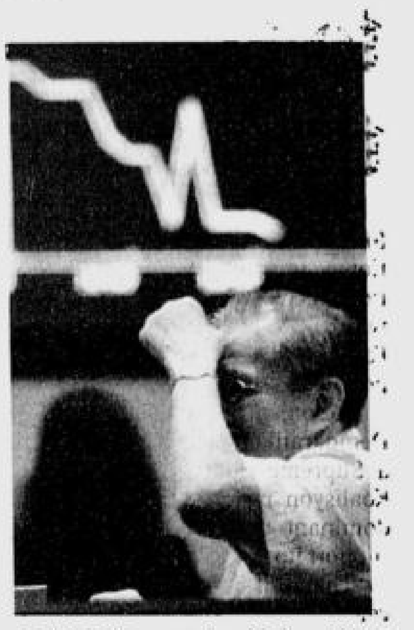
Victim of political noise

Cora Guidote, Ms Arroyo's consultant for investor relations, said in a statement that the peso had become a "victim" of what she described as "political noise."

"This will not help our economy and will only serve to increase the cost of imports, particularly crude oil, prices of which have reached unprecedented levels in the world market," Guidote said.

Stay sober

She said a weak peso would further fuel inflation that had been averaging 8.4 percent this year, way above the government's target of 5-6 percent.



A TRADER scratches his head in front of the electronic board showing a downturn at the Philippine Stock Exchange. AFP

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye made the same pitch at his news briefing.

"It is important that we remain sober at this time because any adverse action of the people could affect the stock market and the peso. If the peso will weaken, everything will be more expensive, such as our raw material requirements, specifically oil, and payments on our international obligations," Bunye said.

In a speech in Iloilo City, Ms Arroyo said the surge in world crude oil prices had dealt the economy a "very big shock."

"Imagine the price of oil today at $61 per barrel, 18 months ago it was only $30 per barrel, and 36 months ago it was only $10 per barrel," she said.

Bad signal

Albay Rep. Jose Salceda, one of Ms Arroyo's economic advisers, said investors' fears had also been stoked by the opposition move to ask the Supreme Court to stop the implementation of the expanded value-added tax.

"The business community and foreign investors are disturbed, if not dismayed, over the move as it sends a bad signal that the fiscal reform program can be reversed even with respect to those that have been legislated," Salceda said in a statement. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., AFP and AP*

COPW BULLETIN NO. 9

WHY THE 10% VAT LAW IS NECESSARY FOR THE ECONOMY TO RECOVER

As far back as September 2004, we informed the Consuming Public that unless we pass NEW revenue measures, increase tax collection, and reflect the true cost of basic services, we will be in a fiscal crisis like Argentina - sooner than later.

While we saw the need for the VAT Law, we also assured the Consuming Public that we will do everything possible to lessen the impact of the 10% VAT on consumers in the C,D,& E economic classes, most especially the poor.

At present, the COPW is working closely with Congress, the Office of the President, the economic managers, and particularly the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), the Department of Energy (DOE), the National Power Corporation (NPC), Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Co.(PSALM), TRANSCO, and Meralco.

THE COPW WORK SCHEDULE FOR JULY IS AS FOLLOWS:

REQUEST CONGRESS TO AMEND VAT LAW ALLOWING 100% DEDUCTION ON THE 10% VAT

We will call on Congress, when it convenes on July 24, to immediately amend the VAT Law so it can allow firms to deduct 100% instead of 70% of their VAT input. Because if this does not happen, a company paying P1000 VAT can only deduct P700. This means that the P300 balance will be passed on to the consumer in the form of a higher selling price. This is especially true for petroleum products and power.

FIGHT GRAFT AND CORRUPTION

We APPEAL to the private sector to support the Tax Drive of the Department of Finance (DOF) by paying correct taxes and also by helping Run After Tax Evaders (R.A.T.E) and Run After The Smugglers (R.A.T.S), even as we encourage the DOF to continue and intensify their "lifestyle check" program.

This Tax Drive, headed by the Finance Secretary and the BIR and Customs Commissioners, is the DOF Team's commitment to erase the image that the Agencies under them are the MOST corrupt the past 50 years and to ensure that all tax collections are accurate and go to the national treasury.

COPW WILL FILE PETITION TO ERC NOT TO ALLOW NPC & PSALM AN 8% RETURN ON RATE BASE (RORB)

1. In their June 2004 petition to the ERC, the NPC and PSALM were granted a provisional increase of P1.03 per kwh. However, the balance of 84 centavos was NOT granted.
2. We are filing a petition to ERC to suspend the recovery of the balance of 84 centavos AS THE RULES OF THE GAME HAVE CHANGED with the 10% VAT on generation as well as transmission and distribution.
3. Before the VAT approval, NPC was exempted from paying the 10% VAT on its diesel and bunker purchases supplied to its IPPs. With the new VAT Law, NPC will pass on its VAT payments on fuel as well as the 10% VAT on the sale of power to Meralco and other distribution utilities.
4. Therefore, the 8% RORB sought by the NPC and PSALM should not be granted considering the burden of VAT to consumers. What we support only is their direct cost recovery.
5. The deficit from NPC will be offset by revenues from IPPs with expiring Income Tax Holidays (ITH) and which will be subject to 35% Corporate Income Tax. The ITH expiry dates of IPP Plants are as follows:
   - 2006 - 2,223 MW
   - 2007 - 370 MW
   - 2008 - 1,232 MW
   - 2009 - 452 MW
6. NPC-Owned and Operated Plants with a total capacity of 3,933 MW will pay 35% Corporate Income Tax on its NET income starting July 1, 2005 under the VAT Law.

COPW TO MONITOR PRICES OF BASIC COMMODITIES

1. The COPW will assign personnel to monitor the prices of basic commodities in 35 wet markets and 22 supermarkets in Metro Manila.
2. The COPW will submit its findings to the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI). Then, the DTI will compare their findings with COPW's. Afterwhich, the COPW, jointly with the DTI, will publish the prevailing prices.

We want to assure the Consuming Public that price increases will be minimal as manufacturers have already reflected the higher cost of raw material inputs in our regular semi-monthly meeting with the National Price Coordinating Council.

CPW CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 1, 2005
13th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Gen 23:1-4,19; 24:1-8,62-67
Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13

AS Jesus moved on, he saw a man named Matthew at his seat in the custom-house, and he said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew got up and followed him. Now it happened, while Jesus was at table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and other sinners joined Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this they said to his disciples, "Why is it that your master eats with those sinners and tax collectors?"

When Jesus heard this he said, "Healthy people do not need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and find out what this means: What I want is mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Commentary

JESUS moves on from his hometown where the teachers disdained his words and even his works that recognized the faith of friends, forgive a man and gave him a future life with his family. And he calls Matthew to be one of his disciples. In joy, Matthew invites Jesus and his disciples to dinner and Jesus sits at table with these public sinners and tax collectors-all those who publicly did not live up to the demands of the law, as it was selectively enforced and practiced and who were in collusion with Rome in small ways-just ordinary people, the majority of people who did not fall into the categories of scribes, lawyers, teachers, officials of religion, priests etc.-all the people with no authority. Jesus breaks the law that admonishes people to shun such people, exclude them from companionship and not even to deign to eat with them lest you get contaminated, and like them..Jesus is sharp with people who question his company-those he breaks bread with (Eucharist) and says that God wants mercy, not empty sacrifice and ritual. Who do we welcome at our tables and share the joy of our God with?

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (BOOK TWO: CRIMES AGAINST HONOR) - Libel - A libel is a public and malicious imputation of a crime, or of a vice or defect, real or imaginary, or any act or omission, condition, status, or circumstance tending to cause the dishonor, discredit, or contempt of a natural or juridical person, or to blacken the memory of one who is dead. The broadcasts were made public and imputed to AMEC defects or circumstances tending to cause it dishonor, discredit and contempt. Rima and Alegre's remarks such as "greed for money on the part of AMEC's administrators"; "AMEC is a dumping ground, garbage of xxx moral and physical misfits"; and AMEC students who graduate "will be liabilities rather than assets" of the society are libelous per se. Taken as a whole, the broadcasts suggest that AMEC is a money-making institution where physically and morally unfit teachers abound. (Citations omitted.) (Justice Caprio, First Division, Filipinas Broadcasting Network, Inc. v. Ago Medical and Educational Center-Bicol Christian College of Medicine, G. R. No. 141994, January 17, 2005) BY R.B. VERA

Ping willing to give way to Susan if ...

SEN. Panfilo Lacson, who ran as an opposition candidate for president in the 2004 elections, yesterday said he'd be willing to give way to Susan Roces if the widow of the late Fernando Poe Jr. were to decide to run in a possible snap election.

Lacson, who ran under the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino in 2004 in the face of a Supreme Court decision upholding Poe's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino as the dominant opposition party, said he would support Roces under a united opposition.

"That is, if she'll run for President when developments lead to snap elections. It is still quite hypothetical," he said.

Roces has emerged as the rallying point for the fractured opposition in its bid to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo after she openly called on the President to step down on Wednesday, bristling with anger and accusing her of having "stolen the presidency."

"She has that sense of righteous indignation so she can be a unifying force, not necessarily becoming the chief executive, but she will be a big contributor to the success of a post-Arroyo leadership that will emerge," party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño said of Roces, an actress.

Lacson, who finished third in the 2004 election, said he saw Roces as "the potential moral force to unite the opposition now."

"This may signal a move to unify the opposition. It's about time for all segments of the opposition to sit down and discuss what to do to end the chaos in the country and to force the person who was not elected to step down," he said.

However, Lacson said he has yet to see any evidence that Vice President Noli de Castro benefited or at least knew of the electoral fraud allegedly perpetrated by the Arroyo administration.

"While there is still no evidence to link Vice President Noli to the electoral fraud, it will be unfair to ask for his resignation," he said.

"If we find evidence that he benefited or at least knew of the electoral fraud committed by the administration, then we'll have to ask him to resign," he added. *Norman Bordadora and AP*

Erap lawyers want Mike A to take stand

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday summoned First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo to testify on Monday in the plunder trial of former President Joseph Estrada.

The subpoena to the First Gentleman was issued following a motion by Rene Saguisag, one of Estrada's lawyers.

Saguisag also asked the Sandiganbayan to subpoena two journalists, including INQUIRER editor-in-chief Leticia Jimenez-Magsanoc or any authorized representative of the paper.

In his request for subpoena, Saguisag told the antigraft court's Special Division which is hearing the cases against Estrada that "it is not our plan to call the First Gentleman this early but with his scheduled departure for abroad to be away for a long time, we are forced to call him now."

Arroyo left the country last night, however.

Aside from the First Gentleman and Magsanoc, Saguisag asked the Sandiganbayan to subpoena the editor-in-chief of Philippine Graphic magazine.

Saguisag said he intended to prove that as early as January 2000, Arroyo and his wife, then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, had begun plotting a takeover and that they saw in this plunder case one *casus belli* (an occurrence giving rise to) to be maintained for as long as there was a challenge to the power grab of 2001.

Through an INQUIRER article that appeared on Feb. 22, 2001, Saguisag said, the defense panel would show that Ms Arroyo had acknowledged initiating meetings with military generals more than a year before.

He said a news item in the Philippine Graphic of March 5, 2001, would prove the same thing.

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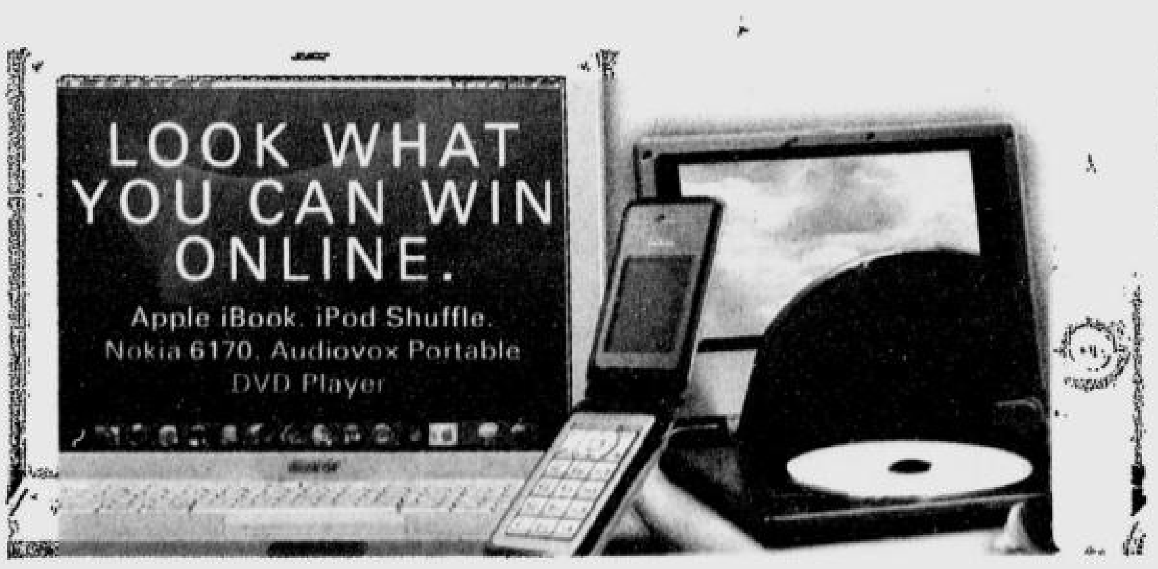

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Congratulations on the 39th Anniversary Charter CITY

TAGBILARAN CITY

Little City *with* Big Dreams

INVESTING IN PEOPLE, INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Tagbilaran City is a city on a mission. After the years of hibernation, it has decided to assume its responsibility as Bohol's showcase of growth and progress and as the gateway to country's fastest-rising tourist attraction.

Since 2004, it has embarked on ambitious people-oriented development program to implement the thrust of the city to redefine its development agenda. While the city's skyline is expected to rise with the final prints to such projects as more school buildings and a multi-million modern convention and sports center, the cornerstone of Tagbilaran's development agenda is its people.

The first business of the day upon the assumption of Mayor Dan Neri Lim and Vice Mayor Nuevas Tirol-Montes on July 1, 2004 was to wage an aggressive campaign to address the growing problem on illegal drugs. While there are sporadic drug-related incidents, city residents have since acknowledged that the city's law-enforcers with the cooperation of concerned constituents have virtually neutralized the problem.

An on-going campaign is to equip the city PNP and support systems such as the barangay tanods to ensure that the peace and order situation is under control. Unless the people are secure, there is no development agenda to speak of.

The health agenda is the institutionalization of Blue Cards which provides free hospitalization for indigents. It is the commitment of the Lim-Montes administration that no Tagbilaran constituent is deprived of hospitalization in government hospitals due to poverty.

Despite winning under different political parties, the incumbent officials have unanimously identified an Executive-Legislative Agenda that confronts the leading problems and addresses the priority issues of the city. This partnership is being strengthened by the active participation of Civil Society representatives right from the conceptual stage that included comprehensive barangay development planning.

To put into full use existing government resources, the city government has embarked on a program that seeks to rightsize the organization by an early retirement program incentive scheme. The bureaucracy is being trained towards the full computerization of services.

The cornerstone of Tagbilaran's development agenda however is to prepare the future generations for the highly-competitive world they will face. The city has availed of the services of Dr. Howard Gardner of the Harvard Graduate School of Education who is the primary advocate of multiple intelligence education.

Dr. Gardner's approach is being implemented in the city's Early Childhood Development Program that will lay the foundation for free quality public education of Tagbilaran's future citizens.

Starting this school year, all public school elementary students were provided with free school uniforms and school supplies so there will be little distinctions among the different economic classes inside the institutions of learning.

Along with the continuing infrastructure development programs to improve the elementary public school buildings and facilities, it is the vision of the City Government that the pupils will learn to value dignity and education early in life.

The different programs incorporated in the city's development agenda is directed primarily towards poverty reduction. In his inaugural address, Mayor Lim said bigger plans for infrastructure and economic development are "hollow and deceptive if the people in the city remain poor, sick and angry".

"Sooner or later, these structures will give way to the constant onslaught of crime and lawlessness. A hungry man is an angry man. That goes too with every hungry woman, youth and child," Mayor Lim warned.

Acknowledging the prevailing problems and existing limitations, the City Government remains firm in its commitment for growth and progress. While nothing can be done about the past and there is little that people can do about the present, there is a lot that can be done for the future.

"If we must dream, we might as well dream big," Mayor Lim asserted. Thus was born the vision of "The Little City With Big Dreams".

Tagbilaran City is investing in its people. In the process, it is actually investing in its future.

Laying the Foundation for Effective Development Legislation

The 9th Sangguniang Panlungsod is guided by its Vision-Mission Statement:

> *"To have, under the Divine Guidance, a competent City Legislative Department in a conducive working environment towards the enactment and implementation of quality legislations with available and sufficient funds for an effective and honest local governance."*

The activities of the 9th SP are guided by the executive-legislative agenda. All regular sessions were conducted at the SP Session Hall except for some seven sessions which were conducted outside of the city hall. The 9th SP also conducted one special session.

A total of 22 committees comprise the 9th Sangguniang Panlungsod covering various concerns salient to city development. The Public Utilities Committee topped the most number of meetings held while the City Planning and Public Lands as well as the Appropriations and Accounts Committees followed.

In terms of reports, both the Committee on Appropriation and Accounts Committee on Public Utilities registered the highest number of reports while the Committee on City Planning and Public Lands came in next.

The 9th SP committees initiated activities to fortify among others their commitment to respond to the growing needs of their constituents. Foremost among these activities are those for leadership and holistic development of the youth, the NGO Convergence Forum which would become a patent display of participatory governance as mandated by the Local Government Code, among others.

Competent Lawmakers and Personnel

The 9th SP rates in the political history of the city as having the most number of lawyer-legislators with five. Four of the councilors are into business, one a retired banker, a student and two full-time legislators. Except for the presiding officer and the two ex-officio members, voted elected at large an all-male council. Only three councilors were re-elected from the previous SP while seven of the twelve are new.

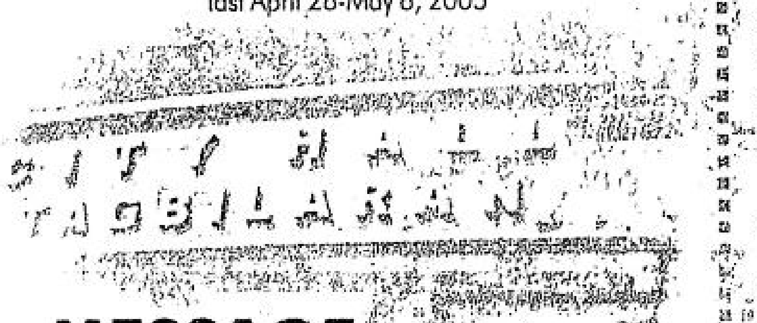
There is so much diversity in the background of the 9th SP. Since the expertise of its members is diverse, there is richness in discussions and perspectives.

As the central law-making figure at the local level, the SP is legally and morally obliged not only to identify and articulate community problems and needs but also to enact legislative measure in response to needs and problems.

The 9th SP also sent a delegation to the Basic Course on Local Legislation on November 15-19, 2004 at UP Diliman, Quezon City. This was sponsored by the Center for Local and Regional Govenance, National College of Public Administration and Governance. Around six of the SP members have undergone the course. The vice-mayor also undertook a similar course as well as 10-day scholarship program at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) last April 26-May 6, 2005

Incumbent City Officials

Hon. Dan Neri Lim – Mayor
Hon. Nuevas T. Montes – *Vice Mayor, Presiding Officer*
Hon. Jose Antonio S. Veloso
Hon. Leonides L. Borja
Hon. Urbano H. Lagunay
Hon. Edgar C. Bompat
Hon. George R. Olario
Hon. Oscar B. Glovasa
Hon. Nerio G. Zamora
Hon. Lucio R. Balbin
Hon. Danilo A. Bantugan
Hon. Edgar Lo Kapirig
Hon. Alberta C. Torralba – *Liga ng mga Barangay*
Hon. Frances Marnelli P. Abellana
Sangguniang Kabataan



MESSAGE

July 1, 2005

Today, Tagbilaran City celebrates its 39th year anniversary as a Charter City. Many people say life begins at 40. That can be said as well for Tagbilaran City. For a city that is the showcase of Bohol's growth and progress and gateway to the fastest-growing tourism destination in the country, Tagbilaran had remained a well-kept secret.

This is a crucial time for Tagbilaran as it is for the nation. It stands on the fork on the road where it has to make a choice by determining the direction that the city will take in the next few years. Many local governments fail because the goals are not defined and because the people's agenda are neglected.

Since its assumption last year, the incumbent administration has identified its development agenda fully conscious of its role to serve the poorest of the poor first. It has introduced the Blue Card which provides free hospitalization to indigents in government hospitals. It has also provided free school uniforms and supplies for public school children.

It is my belief that a development program that does not genuinely address the people's basic needs is at best hollow. The bottom line is people, those who have less in life, those who have little hope in the future. It is a tough task, but someone has to do it.

There is no doubt that the City Government cannot do it alone. It needs all the support it can get, the NGOs, civil society, the church, business and professional societies and individuals who care enough to make a difference in the lives of others.

At this juncture, I would like to personally thank Mayor Lito Atienza for his initial donations and continuing commitment to Tagbilaran's quality early children and elementary public education programs, Dr. Howard Gardner, the Institute for Solidarity in Asia, Aus-Aid, USAID and the German Development Foundation for actual commitments to Tagbilaran's development agenda.

Of course, I could not have gone this far without the unqualified support of my parents, former Councilor Segundo Lim and former Vice Mayor Gloria Neri-Lim. At the same time, I am grateful for the partnership that I enjoy with my official family, Vice Mayor Nuevas Tirol-Montes and the City Council.

Barely one year on the job, I hope to be up to the task. Having served as city councilor, city administrator and for a time Man Friday of Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio and honed by no less than Tony Gatmaitan himself, I believe my heart and my mind are in the right places. Above all, I believe God will perform a miracle in "The Little City with Big Dreams". With the prayers of all those who care enough for Tagbilaran and its people, we can never go wrong.

On its 39th year going on 40, life has began for Tagbilaran.

Atty Dan Neri Lim
Public Servant

With my fondest hopes,

ATTY. DAN NERI LIM
City Mayor

The City of Tagbilaran Fast Facts

Location

Tagbilaran is the capital and a component city of the island paradise of Bohol. It is situated some 630 kilometers southeast of Manila and 72 kilometers south of Cebu City. Tagbilaran lies on the southwestern part of the province, and has a total land area of 3,270 hectares, including about thirteen kilometers of coastline.

Form

The City forms an elongated strip, with ridges and rolling hills, two peaks rise on both ends, Elley Hill (100-meters) on the north and Banat-i (145-meters) on the south.

There are 15 barangays comprising Tagbilaran, with an estimated population of 89,000 for the year 2003, with an annual growth rate of 3.6%. However, 41% of the entire population reside in the 4 urban barangays where trade and commerce are concentrated.

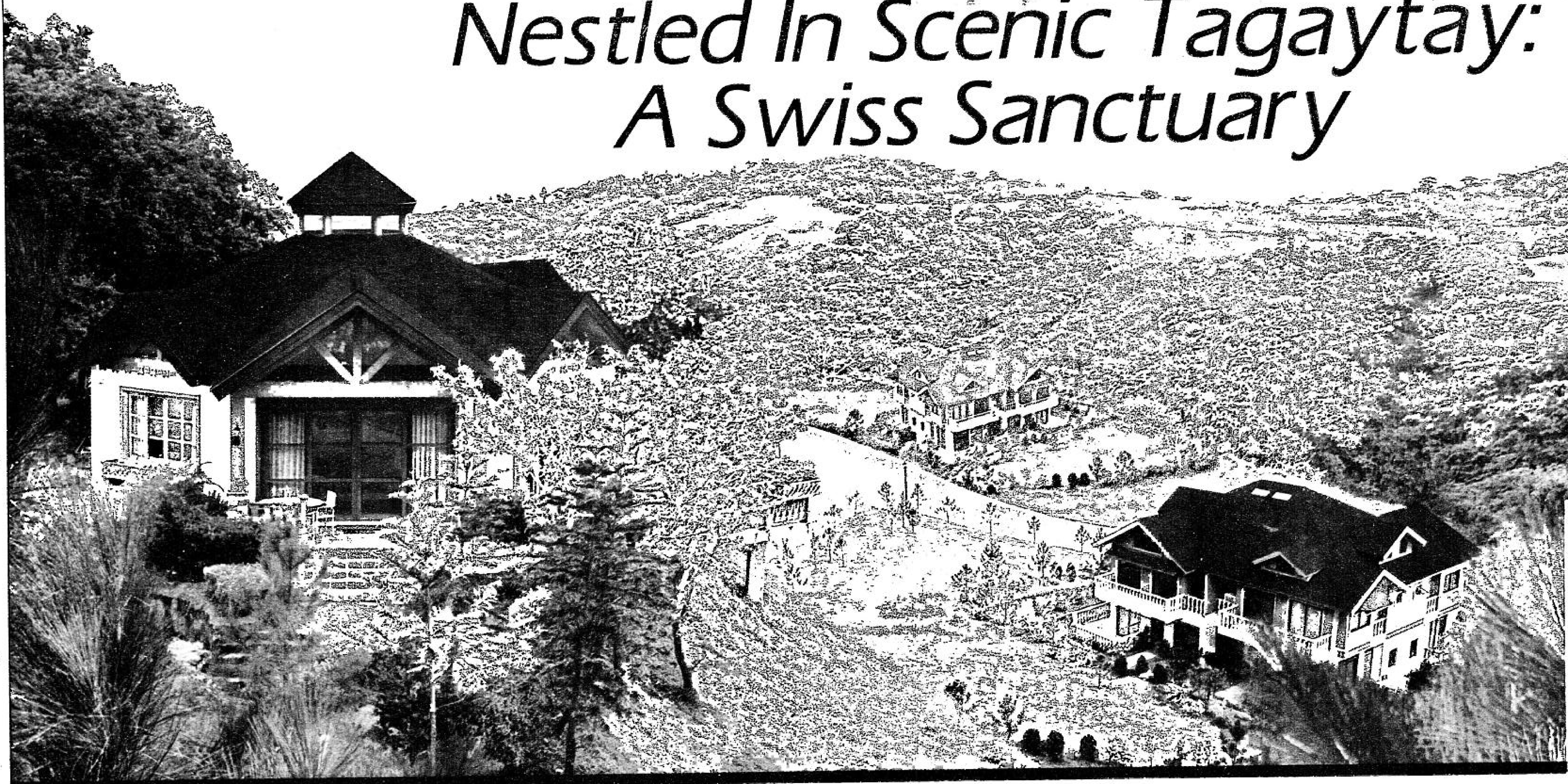
The Origin of the Name

By the way, the origin of the name TAGBILARAN was derived from the word TAGUBILAAN, a contraction then of two local dialect terms TAGU, which means "to hide" and BILAAN, which refers to a Muslim marauder tribe or Moros who were feared by the early settlers because they pillaged and looted the place. In brief, TAGBILARAN means "to hide from the Moros."

Establishment of the Town of Tagbilaran

On February 9, 1742, Governor-General Gaspar dela Torre signed a decree establishing the separate town of San Jose de Tagbilaran from the town of Baclayon. Since then, this once unheralded town has been under the mantle of the Province of Bohol until it became a Chartered City on July 1, 1966 by virtue of Republic Act No. 4660, that she made a name of her own.

Nestled In Scenic Tagaytay: A Swiss Sanctuary



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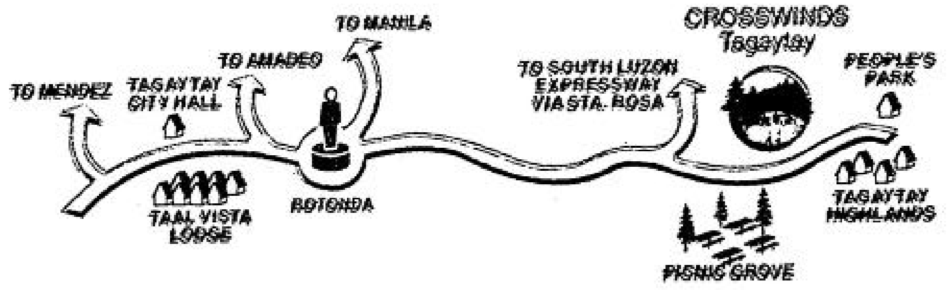
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Militants' rallies start countdown

From page A1

District (WPD) director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong.

The Makati marchers, members of labor group Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, converged at the Ninoy Aquino Monument on Ayala and Paseo de Roxas avenues at around 5 p.m.

"What we want here is for (President Arroyo) to step down, not just because of the 'Garci' tapes or the 'jueteng' scandal. She's been in power for four years, and she has implemented antiworker policies," Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Rene Magtubo said.

He said the workers went to Makati "to bring out a message to capitalists, because they are still supporting [Ms Arroyo]."

Some 200 anti-riot cops were deployed to contain the protesters, who closed the outer southbound lane of Ayala Avenue.

The protest was part of the campaign to force Ms Arroyo to step down after she admitted talking to an election commissioner to inquire about her votes while the May 2004 elections had yet to be concluded.

Her husband, son and brother-in-law have been accused of receiving huge payoffs from operators of jueteng, an illegal numbers game.

GMA PEKENG
PRESIDENTE
PaLaGPUTOn!
KMP-DN/CV

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

DAVAO CITY, too, has its own bandwagon of militants demanding the resignation of President Arroyo.

3 Arroyos

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo left the country yesterday to live abroad to be away from the controversies hounding the Arroyo administration, while his son Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo took an indefinite leave earlier this month from his seat in the House of Representatives.

A senior Catholic bishop said not even imprisonment of the three important Arroyos in her life could rescue Ms Arroyo from the political turmoil she has found herself in.

Center of dissent

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said "sacrificing" the First Gentleman and the President's son and brother-in-law still would not calm restless sectors furious over Ms Arroyo's alleged cheating in last year's presidential election.

"Although they're part of the confusion, they're not the center of the dissent," he told the INQUIRER. "It's the President herself who is the principal problem."

Cruz, the most outspoken critic of the Arroyo administration among senior clergymen, said he pitied the President for having to banish her husband in an apparent attempt to appease her critics.

Life after presidency

"It's a pity that she's sacrificing her own family just to remain in power," the bishop said. "You should not destroy your family just because of politics."

Cruz advised the President to just leave Malacañang. "There is life after the presidency," he said. "There are [still] so many things you can do without being president. Life is bigger than the presidency."

By stepping down, Ms Arroyo would in fact be doing herself a favor considering that her credibility was "slowly being eroded," he said.

"It's very hard for a leader to govern if more and more people are losing their trust in you," he said.

Cebu rally

In Cebu City, about 1,500 members of militant groups marched on the Malacañang sa Sugbo to demand the ouster of Ms Arroyo.

The protesters, belonging to Akbayan, Freedom from Debt Coalition, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, Partido ng Manggagawa and Sanlakas, held a short rally on Colon Street before marching to the Office of the President in Cebu at about 4 p.m.

Around 60 policemen from the city police office and the Regional Mobile Group were deployed in the vicinity of Malacañang sa Sugbo to prevent the militant groups from entering the building.

Supt. Marciano Batiancila, chief of the Waterfront police station, said they would only allow the protesters to march until the area near Fort San Pedro, a few meters from Malacañang sa Sugbo.

He said he received orders from his superiors not to allow the protesters to reach Malacañang sa Sugbo, located at the old Customs Building in Adwana port.

Transition government

In Manila, other groups added their voice to calls that Ms Arroyo step down.

Pastor "Boy" Saycon, secretary general of the Council on Philippine Affairs, urged the President to make the "ultimate sacrifice" by stepping down and paving the way for a snap election.

"She must immediately institute a peaceful transition under the Constitution," he told the INQUIRER.

"She should step aside together with the vice president to allow the Senate president and the chief justice to lead a transition government that would call for a snap election."

But Saycon said a snap election should proceed only after an "overhaul" of the Commission on Elections.

At the rally in Makati, Magtubo called for a transitional revolutionary government that shall be instituted once Ms Arroyo was expelled from Malacañang.

"The transitional government shall institute political reforms and cleanse the bureaucracy, so that we could conduct national elections," Magtubo said.

No permit

Lacuna disclosed that the militant group Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) was supposed to hold a demonstration at Plaza Moriones in Manila today, but "the executive office refused to grant them a rally permit."

The group filed an application for the permit only on Wednesday and was told that at least a week's notice was needed before the request could be granted, Lacuna said. *With reports from Margaux C. Ortiz and Tina G. Santos*

Lawmaker warns Gonzalez on 'male chauvinist' mouth

From page A1

Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza said Gonzalez's description of Susan Roces and his "snide retorts" to the actress' call on Wednesday for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation were "vulgar, disrespectful and sexist."

Maza demanded that Gonzalez apologize and resign his post.

"Be careful with your words. They reek of impropriety and machismo and do not befit a justice secretary," she said.

Gonzalez had said that the administration was better off dismissing Roces' scathing words against the President as an outburst of a "griping widow."

But Maza can take comfort in a quip by Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin: "This man who sits there as justice secretary will probably not be confirmed, anyway."

Gonzalez also said Roces was "too beautiful to be sent to jail."

"Secretary Gonzalez was way out of line. His words could have come from the dictionary of male chauvinist pigs. A woman waging a battle for truth and justice should not be spoken of in this manner," Maza said.

She said Gonzalez should be given a lesson on the "basics of good manners, right conduct and gender sensitivity.

"Not only should the justice secretary apologize, he should [also] resign. He has tarnished the integrity of the justice department too many times with his baseless defense of President Arroyo," she said.

Maza pointed out that Gonzalez had issued "one too many irresponsible statements" threatening whistle-blowers and critics of the Arroyo administration with legal action and arrest.

She added: "If [he] thinks he can make light of Ms Susan Roces' calls for President Arroyo to resign, he is wrong. [Roces] was merely echoing what is in the hearts of millions of Filipino women.

"[He] could have been talking about former President [Corazon] Aquino after the death of Ninoy, or Gabriela Silang. He should be careful. These feisty women have made their significant mark in our people's history."

Hurt, not threatened

The widow of Fernando Poe Jr., Ms Arroyo's biggest rival in 2004, had branded the President as "arrogant," "insensitive" and someone who "stole the presidency not once, but twice."

The President was hurt but not threatened by Roces' remarks, according to Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, a member of Ms Arroyo's crisis committee in the Cabinet.

Defensor said recent developments "got the President thinking about the problem," but were not enough to distract her from the reforms she was pursuing.

He said Ms Arroyo was more concerned about the bigger picture and what she had to do to lead the country forward, as she had promised in her televised address on Monday night.

"But personally ... she's also human. She is hurt. She's more hurt than disturbed by what's happening," Defensor said.

"I can't say she's a serious threat but Ms Susan Roces is a very credible person ... If she talks like that, of course she can influence people, of course people will be touched by what she's saying. That's why I'm calling on [her] to give the President a chance," he said.

'Good citizen'

Defensor said he understood "where [Roces] is coming from."

"She's a good citizen who wants issues clarified, and we can't take that from her ... I hope it does not get to a point where it will spark violence. If people want an investigation, there are venues to do this within the Constitution," he said.

He also said the President did not call for a meeting with the crisis committee after Roces' press conference on Wednesday, but that he spoke with Ms Arroyo in Malacañang.

Defensor said he told the President that whether she kept silent or spoke up about the controversial tape suggesting fraud in the 2004 polls, the same turmoil would happen.

He said it was better that Ms Arroyo had broken her silence because the people were consoled and given the answers to questions about the tape.

"We anticipated this, and we know they will continue saying things ... and will continue to undermine the presidency and the republic," he said.

Defensor, Ms Arroyo's political spokesperson during the 2004 elections, said he had anticipated that Roces would comment on the tape.

"I do not doubt her ability to lead the country, but our appeal is: We just had elections. The process is finished; let's allow the President to serve, give services" he said.

Defensor said the government could not get stuck in the crisis because it would adversely affect a greater number of people, not just the opposition.

"We cannot mope. We need to deliver basic services. Otherwise, there will be problems," he said.

The other cheek

Ms Arroyo is actually turning the other cheek to Roces, according to Malacañang.

"The humility of the President by way of admitting to a lack of judgment is contrary to the charges hurled by Ms Susan Roces," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told dzBB radio in reply to the question of how Ms Arroyo had reacted to the remarks of Poe's widow.

Bunye called on Roces to follow the rule of law and not give in to her emotions.

"We should all stay calm," he said.

He also said the President was banking on the support of the "middle group," which he described as composed of "those that have an open mind, are more reasonable, ready to forgive and to give the President a second chance."

Bunye said Ms Arroyo received many messages of support and encouragement from religious groups, local government units and nongovernment organizations immediately after her Monday night speech, wherein she admitted to making a "lapse in judgment" by talking to an election official during the canvassing of last year's votes.

He said the middle group should neutralize the opposition, which had always contradicted and opposed the President's statements and actions.

In control

The militant party-list group Anakpawis described the Arroyo administration as a "melting candle," but administration lawmakers said the President was still in control and would quell the "political firestorm" to keep the flames of democracy alive in the country.

"These hard decisions made by the President only show her determination to protect and preserve our democracy and the duly constituted government," House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said.

Nograles said those "plotting to bring down the government" should be forewarned that Ms Arroyo "can and will demonstrate the same resolve to protect the presidency."

As for Roces' call for Ms Arroyo to step down now, Nograles said Poe's widow was "dangerously treading on the border of inciting to sedition by calling on the people to go to the streets to bring down a duly constituted government.

"She must be very, very careful because some interest groups are obviously using her in this grand plot to grab power," he said.

Palawan Rep. Antonio Alvarez warned that the Filipino people would "eventually end up the losers" if the current political turmoil worsened.

He said he was saddened by Roces' "fighting words" even though Ms Arroyo had made "the unprecedented act of seeking the forgiveness of the Filipino people." *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Michael Lim Ubac*

Cory advises Susan: Stand by Constitution

From page A1

pressed gratitude to Aquino.

"We thank [her] for this most timely reminder to exhaust all legal and constitutional means for the redress of any grievances against the administration," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

"The conditions that brought about Edsa I [in 1986] and II [in 2001] are different from what we face today," Bunye said. "We must work within the framework of our Constitution and our laws if we truly want a stable government that rests upon the rule of law."

Erap's take

But in a statement faxed to the INQUIRER, deposed President Joseph Estrada said Aquino "appears to have conveniently forgotten the fact that in 2001, she and the elite forces supporting [then] Vice President Arroyo turned their backs on the Constitution."

"Was she true to her Constitution when she, together with the late Jaime Cardinal Sin and the elite mob, demonized me, demanded my ouster and convicted me in the streets, much like what is happening to [Ms Arroyo] today?" said Estrada, who is facing plunder charges before the Sandiganbayan.

Mothers and daughters

Aquino also visited Roces earlier, on June 13, to laud the actress for serving as the voice of sobriety amid the tension triggered by the announcement of Samuel Ong, former deputy director of the National Bureau of Investigation, that he had in his possession the "mother of all tapes" indicating fraud in the 2004 presidential election.

Roces' confidante Marichu Vera-Perez yesterday said Aquino phoned on Wednesday afternoon to inquire "if she could see Susan right away."

According to Vera-Perez, Roces and her daughter Mary Grace received the former President, who was accompanied by her own daughter Ballsy.

Vera-Perez said that to give the two widows privacy, she and the other visitors in the Poe household left to attend the blessing of film producer Armida Siguion Reyna's new house in Makati City.

She said Roces did not divulge what took place during the meeting.

But Vera-Perez said Roces had requested her to collect "all the negative reactions" to the actress' call for Ms Arroyo's immediate resignation.

"Susan was surprised when she saw herself [in the TV footage]. She couldn't believe that she had said all those things," Vera-Perez said with a laugh.

Speaking up

Aquino said she was forced to speak up on the controversies involving Ms Arroyo, including her confession that she had phoned an election official to inquire about her votes in the 2004 presidential election, and her apology to the public.

The former President had been criticized by some quarters for accepting Ms Arroyo's apology and urging the people to pray for enlightenment.

"I, too, have been pressured to speak up," Aquino said. "But I had a good reason to keep my peace until I was ready. I was praying for light, for myself and our country."

According to Aquino, who became President in 1986 by virtue of People Power, the Constitution contains all the remedies to effect changes, even in the national leadership.

While she believes in People Power, she said, "people power for oneself will never succeed."

She said People Power had succeeded only if it was for others, as in 1986 and 2001.

"To step outside the Constitution will only expose us to greater danger than the injustice we want to correct," she said.

'Prayer never fails'

Aquino also addressed those who did not believe in the power of prayer in solving the country's problems.

She said that she had always believed in it, and that this had guided her decisions.

Aquino recalled that during the 1986 snap election, she was called "naive" when she challenged the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"The victories of the opposition, notwithstanding a rigged election, gave friends of freedom the true measure of their strength and the confidence" to go on to Edsa I, Aquino said.

"Prayer, and the strength and courage that prayer gives, gave us back our freedom, and protected it. Prayer and prayerful reflection have never failed our country. It will not do so now," she said, adding:

"I repeat, without any embarrassment, my call for prayer and prayerful reflection so that, in the days and weeks ahead, the steps we take will be the right ones toward truth, justice and peace."

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines also called for prayer.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, vice president of the CBCP, urged the public to "reject the path of violence and revolution" and turn to prayer in the absence of a "clear solution" to the political crisis.

"We do not set right a wrong with another wrong," he said in a circular released yesterday.

Lagdameo said Ms Arroyo should be "open to the true solution of lost credibility dictated by God in the light of emerged and emerging circumstances."

Cory's preference

Whatever solution it might be, he said, the public should "respond to the evolving political scenario with sobriety, calmness, wisdom and discernment, and not be swayed by heightened emotional reaction."

At a briefing, Bunye said that while People Power was enshrined in the Constitution, Aquino had stated her preference for an end to the use of this means to change leaders.

On the call of the opposition for Ms Arroyo to step down to pave the way for a snap election, he said: "There is no provision that allows for snap polls in the Constitution. We know that the President has not violated any laws, and there is no basis for calls for her to resign and other means of removal."

GMA endorsement?

Bunye did not say whether Malacañang believed that Aquino's statement was an endorsement of Ms Arroyo.

"The former President believes in the Constitution, and she is saying that the current President has not violated the Constitution," he told reporters.

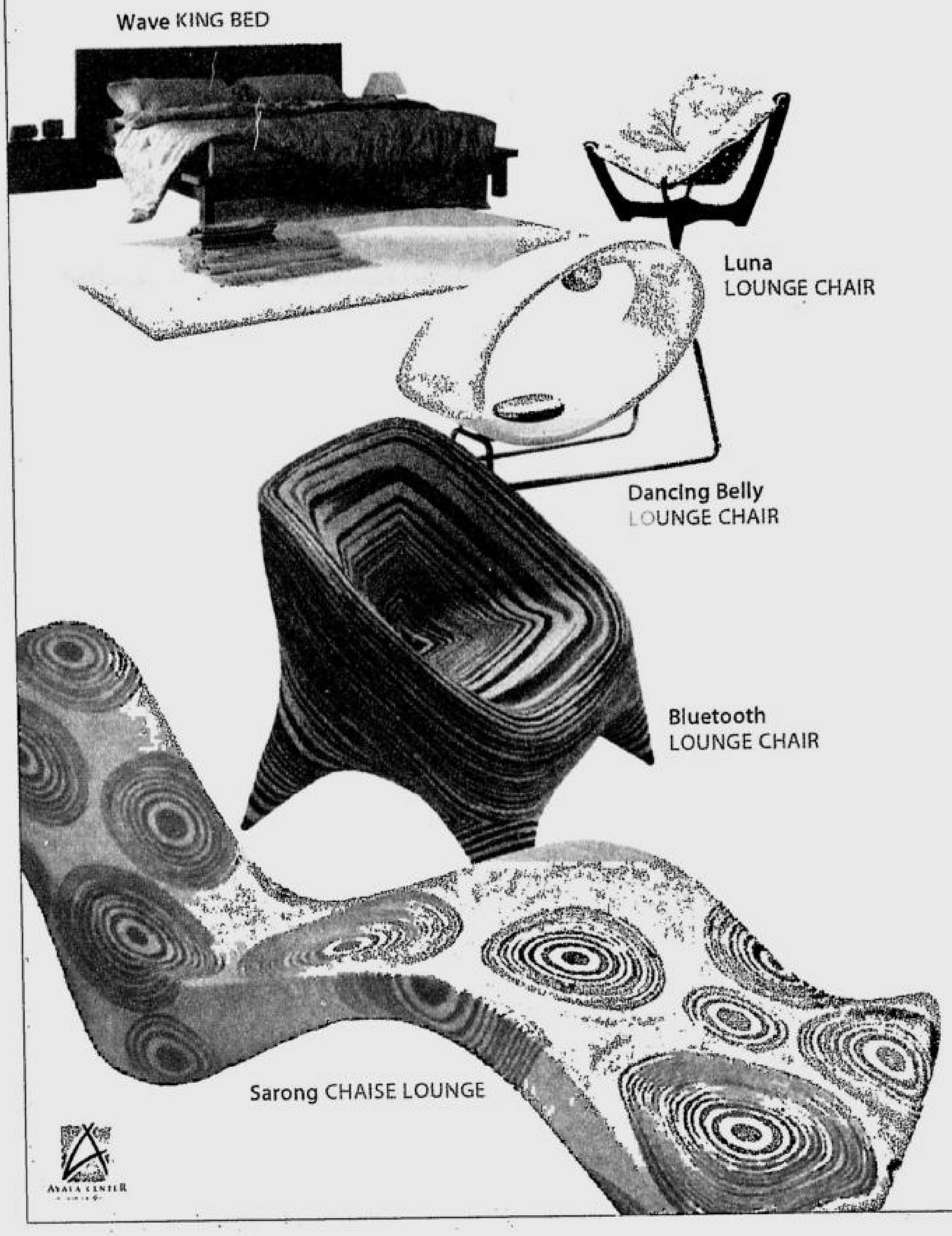
In a text message, Gabriel Claudio, Ms Arroyo's adviser on political affairs, said: "We are glad that former President Aquino herself has explicitly clarified the message she had conveyed to Ms Roces, which is her full and unequivocal endorsement of the rule of law and a clear admonition against the use of means outside the limits of the Constitution to resolve present political controversies."

Twist meaning?

Claudio said he had expected the opposition to "twist the context and meaning" of the two widows' meeting "to suit [its] partisan ends."

He said Aquino's statement "should have a sobering and moderating effect on people, whether they are against or for" the administration.

"I hope that Ms Roces, her followers and the opposition will take heed and be guided accordingly," he added. *Fe Zamora, Cynthia D. Balana, Christine O. Avendaño, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christian V. Esguerra*



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Afghanistan seen on brink

Analysts say US chopper crash shows country near chaos

KABUL—A wave of Taliban violence culminating in the crash of a US helicopter probably hit by ground fire has brought Afghanistan to the verge of chaos and could compromise American operations in Iraq, analysts say.

Hopes were fading for 17 US personnel still missing after the Chinook came down Tuesday in Kunar province, part of a swathe of southern and eastern Afghanistan where rebel attacks have reached levels not seen since the regime fell in late 2001.

If the servicemen are confirmed dead, it would be the biggest toll for American forces from a single incident of enemy fire since they invaded the war-shattered country nearly four years ago.

Analysts said that if the United States could not defend its high-tech hardware against grassroots Taliban insurgents, questions would be raised about its ability to guarantee security ahead of landmark parliamentary polls in September.

"It is obvious the US military's campaign to eliminate or weaken the Taliban has significantly failed," said Riffat Hussain, an expert on Afghan affairs at Quaid-e-Azam University in the Pakistani capital Islamabad.

With US forces already overstretched in Iraq, and NATO troops confined to the relatively peaceful north and west of Afghanistan, the 18,000-strong US-led coalition here cannot afford to write off the Taliban, he said.

"If it gets out of control in Afghanistan then the American ability to keep things under control in Iraq would also be compromised," Hussain added.

Things looked much better a few months ago, after US-backed President Hamid Karzai was elected by a huge majority of Afghans in a poll that was relatively untroubled by Taliban attacks.

Afghan officials have said privately that the sharp surge in violence took them by surprise—particularly as the US military claimed a few months ago to have broken the back of the Taliban.

Now, though, the figures speak for themselves.

In the past month at least five US soldiers and 187 other people, mostly militants, have been killed in series of bomb attacks, ambushes and clashes, compared with the 116 who died in such violence in June 2004.

June 2005 began with the deaths of 21 people in suicide bomb at mosque in southern Kandahar during the funeral of a cleric who was assassinated by the Taliban.

And it has continued in bloody fashion, with at least 77 militants killed in a pitched battle with Afghan and US forces in southern Afghanistan last week. Most of the rebels were blown apart by US air strikes.

Two Afghan election candidates and a man traveling with a UN electoral commission worker have also been killed in the south this month. *AFP*

FORMER Afghan militiamen carry weapons to hand them over during a Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration program in Kabul, June 30. AFP

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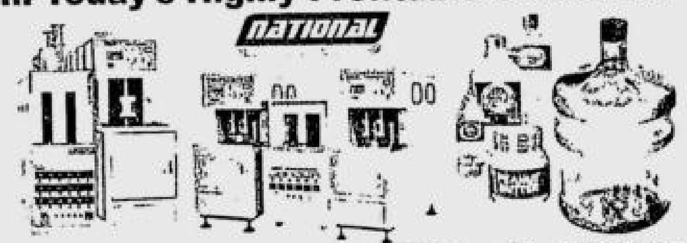

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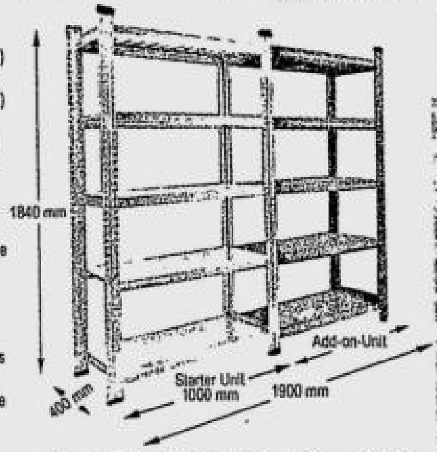

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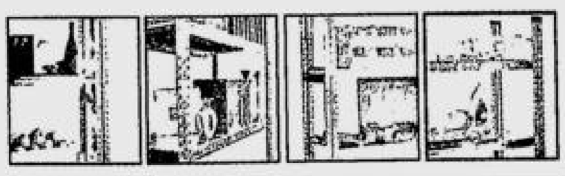

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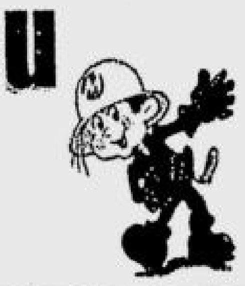

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Electric service in these areas will be momentarily interrupted for facilities and other line work:

TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2005

MANILA (STA. MESA) AND MANDALUYONG CITY

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 1:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT PANDACAN 14M; AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT PANDACAN 12M

Portion of Valenzuela, V. Mapa Sts. and Old Sta. Mesa Road from Cordeleria St. to near Gardenville Drive including Congrese (Guadalcanal), Peralta, Sarmiento, First, Second, Bataan Sts., Marquee Mills, Dimsum Master, Country Chicken and Ana Plastic Mfg. in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Portion of Lubiran St. from Cordeleria St. to and including Makisig, Bagumbayan, Bacood, Lakas, Dalisay, Third, Albert Sts. and Trinity Steel Products in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Portion of Gen. Kalentong St. from Rt. Rev. Aglipay St. (Blumentritt) to and including Pag-asa, A. T. Reyes, A. Luna, T. Bernardo, A. Bonifacio, Star, I. Lopez, P. Lopez Sts., Don Bosco Vocational School, Amor Theater, R. Raymundo Pawnshop, and Evangelista Mansions in Bgys. Harapin ang Bukas, Burol and Poblacion, Mandaluyong City.

REASON: Maintenance work inside Meralco – Pandacan substation.

RIZAL PROVINCE (ANTIPOLO CITY)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 11:30AM AND 12:00NN – PORTION OF CIRCUIT DOLORES 42XM

Portion of Circumferential Road from General Luna St. to Hen. Lim Mami House including Antipolo Regional Trial Court, Marfis Garments, Caltex, PLDT, 7-11, Apex Diagnostics Corp., Manila Water Company, Digitel TeleComm Phils., Allied Bank, Banco San Juan and PNB in Bgy. San Roque.

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 12:00NN – PORTION OF CIRCUIT DOLORES 42XM

Along M. L. Quezon Extn. from near Circumferential Road to and including Yupangco Cotton Mills, United Machinery Mfg., Maya Farms, Meralco Housing, Eastwood Ville, Yupangco Subd., Masagana Village, SRA dela Paz Subd., Robina Farms, Global Power Designs, Mission Hills Subd., Birmingham, Pines City Subd., Nayong Silangan Subd., Lores Country Homes, Ferret Ville and Dalaya Vill. in Bgy. San Roque.

REASON: Replacement of rotten pole along M. L. Quezon Extn. and Mt. Apo Sts. in Mt. Makiling Grand Valley Subd. Ph. 2, Mahabang Parang, Angono, Rizal Province.

BULACAN

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:45PM AND 2:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT ANGAT 36YT AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALIWAG 313YW

Bgys. Bunga Menor, Bunga Mayor, Tibagan, Tibagan Pumping Station in Bustos; Niugan and Parokya ng San Pablo in Angat.

Along Fernando Ave. from Meralco – Angat substation to and including Bgys. Tayang-Tayang, Tabok, Solocan, Binagbag, Marungko, Tugatog, Sabang, Sta. Lucia, Banaban, Baybay, Pulong Sampaloc, Casalat, Sapang Putik, Camachile, San Roque, Laog, Poblacion and Sta. Cruz in Angat.

BETWEEN 1:30PM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALIWAG 322YW

Portion of B. S. Aquino Ave. from Doña Remedios Trinidad Highway to Gil Carlos St. including Poblacion, 7-11, Baliwag Public Market, St. Augustine Parish Church, Rotonda, Mega Shoppe, St. Mary's College of Baliwag and ALC Baliwag Cinema in Baliuag.

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALIWAG 313YW

Bgys. Malamig, Coloculis, Licada and Malawak in Bustos

REASON: Load shifting of circuits Baliwag 313YW and Baliwag 322YW.

CAVITE

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:45PM AND 2:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS IMUS 34WK AND PALICO 39ZE – IMUS 35WK

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Meralco - Palico substation to Meralco - Imus substation including Makro, Monti Textile Corp., Plaridel Subd., Villa Leticia, Lily Pia Subd., Villa Amparo, Villa Nicasia, Southern City Homes, Holiday Village, Independence St., Holiday Ave., Pacmac, Better Life Subd., Doña Dionisia Subd. and portion of Bgy. Tanzang Luma in Imus.

Along Nuevo Ave. from Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway to and including Tahimik St., Imus Public Market, Vina Village, Imus Institute, Imus Municipal Hall, Imus Parish Church, Gen. Garcia Park, Del Pilar Academy, Imus Museum - Camp Garcia, Imus Municipal Academy, Poblacion 4, Gen. Castañeda, Tirona, Gen. Satorre Sts. in Imus; Villanueva, Elises and Abella Sts. in Bacoor.

Along Bayan Luma Road from Aguinaldo Highway to and including Bo. Manalo, Iglesia ni Kristo, Bgy. Alapan II, Bliss Housing in Gen. Trias; Mary-Cris Homes, Bo. Bucandala, Villa Feliciana Subd. and Sarreal Subd. in Imus.

Along Malagasang Road from Bayan Luma Road to near Christian Joan School including Pag-asa Subd., Bgy. Malagasang I, Manuela Subd., MWSS, Mandarin Homes II, Hayag Motor Works and Machine Shop and Francis Rice Mill in Imus.

REASON: Repair work inside Meralco – Imus substation.

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, JULY 5 – 6, 2005

MANILA (BINONDO)

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (TUE., 07/05/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (WED., 07/06/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT PALOMAR 31L

Portion of Narra St., C. M. Recto Ave., Reina Regente, and Juan Luna Sts. from Meralco - Palomar substation near P. Algue St. to Muelle de la Industria St.

REASON: Various repair work along Juan Luna and Muelle de Binondo Sts. in Binondo, Manila.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2005

QUEZON PROVINCE (LUCENA CITY AND PAGBILAO)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS LUCENA I 11ZG, 12ZG AND 13ZG, LUCENA II 11ZH AND PAGBILAO 11WD AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAYABAS 44ZY

Portion of Tayabas - Lucena Provincial Road from Lucena – Tayabas boundary to and including Gomez St., Camp Nakar, Andaman Village, Pleasantville Subd., Capistrano Subd., Hermana Capistrano Subd., St. Peter Subd., Pilar Compound, Bgys. Ilayang Dupay and Gulang Gulang.

Portion of Lucena Diversion Road from Bgy. Boconan to Lucena – Pagbilao Provincial Road including University Village, M. S. Enverga University, Luzonian University, Lucena Grand Central, Tonn Builders, Ridgewood Park Subd., San Isidro Subd., Good Luck Subd., St. Michael Subd., Happy Family Subd. and Villa Aurea in Bgys. Domoit and Gulang Gulang.

Portion of Allarey St. from Mount Carmel Hospital to near Magallanes St. including Malvar, Gomez, Fausta and P. Burgos St.

Portion of P. Burgos St. from Gaisano Mall to Allarey St. including Pacific Mall.

Portion of Rizal, C. M. Recto, Juarez Sts., Market Ave., Duhat St. and Bonifacio Drive from Allarey St. to Maharlika Highway including Lucena City Public Market, Market View, Papaya, Don Crisanto and Duhat Sts.

Portion of Gomez St. and Lucena – Pagbilao Maharlika Highway from Allarey St. to and including the whole of Pagbilao, San Francisco Village, Sto. Niño Subd., Villa San Lorenzo, Villa Juliana Subd., Familyland Subd., University Village, Site Subd., Broadcast Ville and Calmar Homes in Ibabang Dupay and Kanlurang Mayao, Lucena City

Portion of Dalahican Road from Lucena – Pagbilao Maharlika Highway to and including Lucena Fishing Port, Bureau of Fisheries, Hillsview Subd., Lucena Heights Subd., Bgys. Barrra, Talao – Talao and Mayao, Lucena City.

REASON: Repair work inside Transco – Tayabas substation.

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2005

RIZAL PROVINCE (CAINTA)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT ST. ANTHONY 61ZN

Venus Steel Corporation and Midland Steel Corporation.

REASON: Various maintenance work along J. P. Rizal St. corner S. Senga St. in Marikina City.

CAVITE (IMUS AND DASMARIÑAS)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:45PM AND 2:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT IMUS 36WK – ABUBOT 34XZ

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Meralco – Imus substation to Meralco – Dasmariñas Service Center including New Imus Village, Metrobank, Metro Dialysis Center in Imus; Philta Industries, Dara Subd. and Salitran I in Dasmariñas.

REASON: Repair work inside Meralco – Imus substation.

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, JULY 7-8, 2005

MANILA

BETWEEN 11:00AM AND 11:15AM (THU., 07/07/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:45AM AND 5:00AM (FRI., 07/08/05) – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT BINONDO 19N AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT TONDO 18VM

Portion of Muelle de la Industria, Numancia and Asuncion Sts. from Meralco – Binondo substation along Prenza St. to near Balagtas St. including Zaragoza, M. de Santos and Lavares Sts. in San Nicolas.

Portion of C. M. Recto Ave. from Sevilla St. to Sto. Cristo St. including Tahimik, Alarcon and Sto. Rosario Sts. in Tondo.

Portion of Sto. Cristo St. from Zaragoza St. to Lavares St. including Elcano, Caballeros and Comercio Sts. in San Nicolas.

BETWEEN 11:00AM AND 11:30AM (THU., 07/07/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM (FRI., 07/08/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT TONDO 18VM

Portion of Lavares, Muelle de Binondo, Sta. Elena and Lachambre Sts. from near Sto. Cristo St. to Felipe II St. in Binondo.

Portion of Mayhaligue St., Jose Abad Santos Ave. and Reina Regente St. from Meralco-Tondo substation along Antonio Rivera St. to Felipe II St. in Tutuban.

BETWEEN 11:00AM (THU., 07/07/05) AND 5:00AM (FRI., 07/08/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT TONDO 18VM

Portion of Felipe II St. from near Lachambre St. to Reina Regente St. in Binondo.

REASON: Extension of facilities along Felipe II St. in Binondo, Manila.

PASIG CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (THU., 07/07/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:00AM AND 5:30AM (FRI., 07/08/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT CAINTA 47XG - PASIG 43ZK-44ZK

Along Urbano Velasco Ave. from Farmer's Ave. to and including Purok Jasmin, Acacia St. in Bgy. Pinagbuhatan; Soriano, V. Baltazar, E. Santos Sts., San Agustin Ave. in Bgy. Palatiw; Mutya ng Pasig Public Market, Prima Commercial Center, Armal Center, DILG, Pasig Supermarket, Pasig Post Office in Bgy. Malinao; Farmer's Ave., Don M. Melendrez Ave., J. B. Miguel St. and Unilox Indl. Corp. in Bgy. Kalawaan Norte.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU., 07/07/05) AND 5:30AM (FRI., 07/08/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT CAINTA 47XG - PASIG 43ZK-44ZK

Along F. Manalo St. from near Urbano Velasco Ave. to and including Baltazar St., Caruncho Drive, Pasig City Hall, Dept. of Justice, Caruncho Sports Complex and Jollibee – Pasig Market in Bgy. Malinao.

REASON: Relocation of facilities along F. Manalo St. and Caruncho Ave. in Bgy. Malinao, Pasig City affected by the Pasig City Hall Overpass construction.

FRIDAY TO SATURDAY, JULY 8-9, 2005

VALENZUELA CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (FRI., 07/08/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00AM AND 4:30AM (SAT., 07/09/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS MALINTA 45YB AND 48YB

Portion of McArthur Highway from Meralco – Malinta substation along Maysan Road to San Miguel - Valenzuela Sales Office including Pag-asa Subd. 2, Arty Subd. 4 and Daez St. in Bgy. Karuhatan.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (FRI., 07/08/05) AND 4:30AM (SAT., 07/09/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS MALABON 57YD AND MALINTA 45YB

Portion of McArthur Highway from San Francisco St. to and including Elysian Subd., Greenfield Subd., Llenado Subd., Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, Industrial Road, Manotok Subd., Pag-asa Subd. 1, Happy Site Subd., Serrano Subd., Tomas Manuel Subd., Villa Teresa Subd., Silangan Park and Lakas ng Nayon St. in Bgys. Marulas and Karuhatan.

REASON: Relocation of facilities affected by DPWH road widening project along McArthur Highway in Bgys. Marulas and Karuhatan, Valenzuela City.

SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2005

MANILA (STA. MESA AND SAMPALOC)

BETWEEN 7:00AM AND 7:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:30PM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. MESA 43F

Portion of Visayan Ave. from Meralco – Sta. Mesa substation to near Pureza St. including Batanes, Luzon, Romblon and Mangga Sts. in Sta. Mesa.

BETWEEN 7:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. MESA 43F

Portion of Pureza and Algeciras Sts. from Visayan Ave. to near España Blvd. including Honradez, Ansures, E. Quintos Sr., Firmeza Sts., Jollibee – E. Quintos and Most Holy Trinity Academy in Sampaloc.

REASON: Replacement of rotten pole along Antipolo St. corner Sergio H. Loyola St. (Lepanto) in Sampaloc, Manila.

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Spain's parliament approves gay marriage

MADRID—Spain's parliament on Thursday approved a controversial new law allowing gay couples to marry and adopt children, flying in the face of furious opposition from the Roman Catholic Church.

Spain, which has around four million homosexuals according to gay associations, thus becomes Europe's third nation to legalize same-sex marriage after the Netherlands and Belgium, and the fourth in the world after Canada, which passed its law on Tuesday.

Spanish deputies approved the text by a majority of 187 votes out of 350, with 147 voting against and four abstentions.

The bill put up by the Socialist government of Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, will now be signed into law by the head of state, King Juan Carlos and come into force this summer.

"In strict application of an electoral pledge, Spain today now recognizes the right to marriage between persons of the same sex," Zapatero said before the vote.

"Before us, Belgium and the Netherlands did it and Canada did it the day before yesterday. We are not the first to adopt such a law but I am sure we will not be the last, many other countries will come after, pushed by two unstoppable forces, liberty and equality" he declared.

"We are not legislating for foreign or distant peoples, we are increasing the chances of happiness "or" our neighbors, our friends, our work colleagues, the members of our family.

The legislation has been bitterly opposed by conservatives in the influential Roman Catholic Church and the right wing opposition Popular Party, whose leader Mariano Rajoy warned after Thursday's vote that "the issue will divide Spanish society."

An estimated half a million people, including many bishops, priests and nuns, turned out to demonstrate against the new law last weekend in central Madrid, while almost as many attended a rally which the gay community billed as a counter-protest.

AFP

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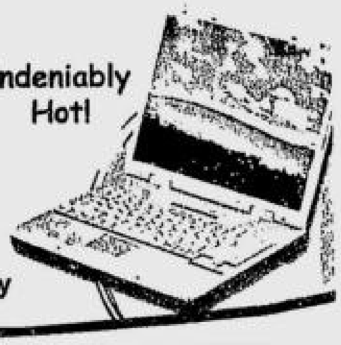

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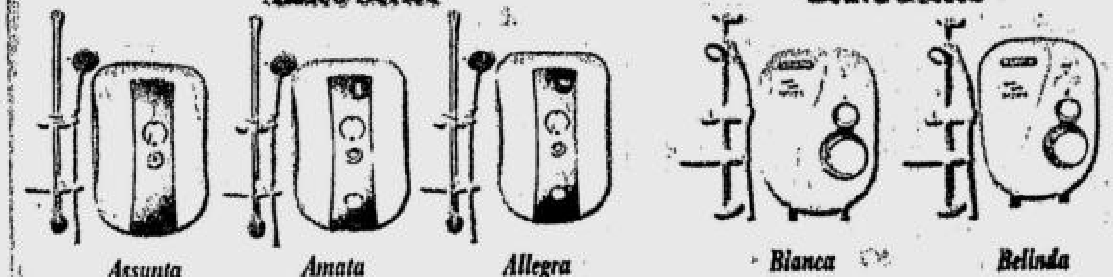

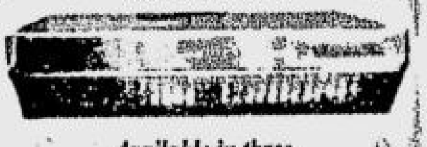

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12 more die in Iraq; Bush says US to stay

BAGHDAD—Insurgents took a dozen more lives in Iraq Wednesday after President George W. Bush pledged US troops would stay on mission despite mounting casualties and criticism of the conduct of the war.

At least 12 Iraqis died and 19 were wounded, including four who were killed when mortar rounds slammed into their homes in the northwestern town of Tal Afar while they slept.

But a Turkish businessman held by militants in Iraq since January was freed, a senior Turkish diplomat said.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari called on Islamic states to show greater understanding of the horror of the violence rocking his country and to take an unambiguous position in the war on insurgents.

US troops staged a dawn raid west of Baghdad, detaining a Sunni tribal leader close to hardline clerics, but later released him.

North of Baghdad, the coffins of Iraq's oldest member of parliament, Dhari al-Fayadh, 87, and his son Hassan were paraded through the streets of their home town by a packed crowd that beat their breasts and waved guns in the air.

The al-Qaida-linked group headed by Iraq's most wanted man, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing that killed them Tuesday, in an Internet statement whose authenticity could not be verified.

Bush sought support Tuesday for his Iraq policy exactly one year after the United States handed back sovereignty to an appointed Iraqi administration.

Facing polls showing most Americans disapprove of how he has handled the war, Bush said it would be a "serious mistake" to set a deadline for withdrawing 135,000 US troops from Iraq, even though 1,731 have died there. *AFP*

Looting of ancient sites threatens Iraqi heritage

By Mark Wilkinson

BOSTON—Iraq's archaeological sites, despite protection efforts, are so ravaged by looters that the pillaging has landed the entire embattled nation on a list of the world's 100 mkost endangered cultural sites.

Two years after the US-led invasion of Iraq and a widely publicised break-in at the Baghdad Museum, the country is a hotbed of antiquities plundering that threatens to put huge gaps in the understanding of its rich history, experts say.

Once called Mesopotamia, Iraq is regarded as the cradle of civilization and the birthplace of cities. This year's World Monuments Fund's list of the world's 100 most endangered sites named Iraq, the first time an entire country was listed as at risk.

"It's devastating. It's obliterating the country's heritage, and we might never know the full story of Iraq," said Clemens Reichel, an archaeologist at the University of Chicago.

"Archeological sites now look like lunar landscapes." The ancient Assyrian capital of Nineveh, the ziggurat at Ur, the temple precinct of Babylon and the 9th century spiral minaret at Samarra have been "scarred by violence," the World Monuments Fund said, while adding that looting has damaged other equally significant sites, especially in the South. *Reuters*

Vietnam bird flu toll hits 39

HANOI—A 73-year-old Vietnamese has died from bird flu, taking the country's toll to 39, 19 of them since the virus returned in December, state-runk media reported on Thursday.

The Hanoi resident, one of four people infected by the H5N1 virus being treated in hospital, died on Tuesday after being admitted on June 23.

The Health Ministry said bird flu had infected 60 people since it returned to Vietnam in December.

On Wednesday, the World Health Organization repeated its warning that the H5N1 virus could mutate into a form which could pass easily between people and cause a pandemic.

"WHO advises Vietnam and the rest of the world to remain vigilant in their influenza control efforts," the WHO said. *Reuters*

DROUGHT, MASS STARVATION IN NIGER

A malnourished infant lies on the floor inside a therapeutic feeding center run by the medical charity Medec in the town of Maradi in southern Niger June 29. Relief workers are scouring West Africa for new sources of starvation in Niger after drought hit stocks in the country's traditional suppliers, a UN official said on Wedn

2 US reporters again refuse to testify

WASHINGTON—Two top US reporters signaled Wednesday that they would rather go to jail than reveal their sources, in the case of a CIA spy outed during a row over the US rationale for war in Iraq.

US District Court Judge Thomas Hogan gave Judith Miller of The New York Times and Matthew Cooper of Time magazine until Friday to testify to a grand jury probing how agent Valerie Plame's name was leaked to the media.

If they did not, he said he would rule on their fate July 6 in a case which has raised fears over US press freedoms.

The hearing came two days after the US Supreme Court declined to hear appeals on jail sentences of up to 18 months imposed on the reporters for contempt of court.

"The time has come," Hogan said. "One week from today, we will have a final hearing on the merits."

The pair had argued that press freedom guarantees in the US Constitution shielded them from having to reveal their sources. They claimed such sources had been vital to exposing previous government scandals, including Wate the Pentagon P the Vietnam W

Lawyers ha judge that the refusal to testi the case, despi ing.

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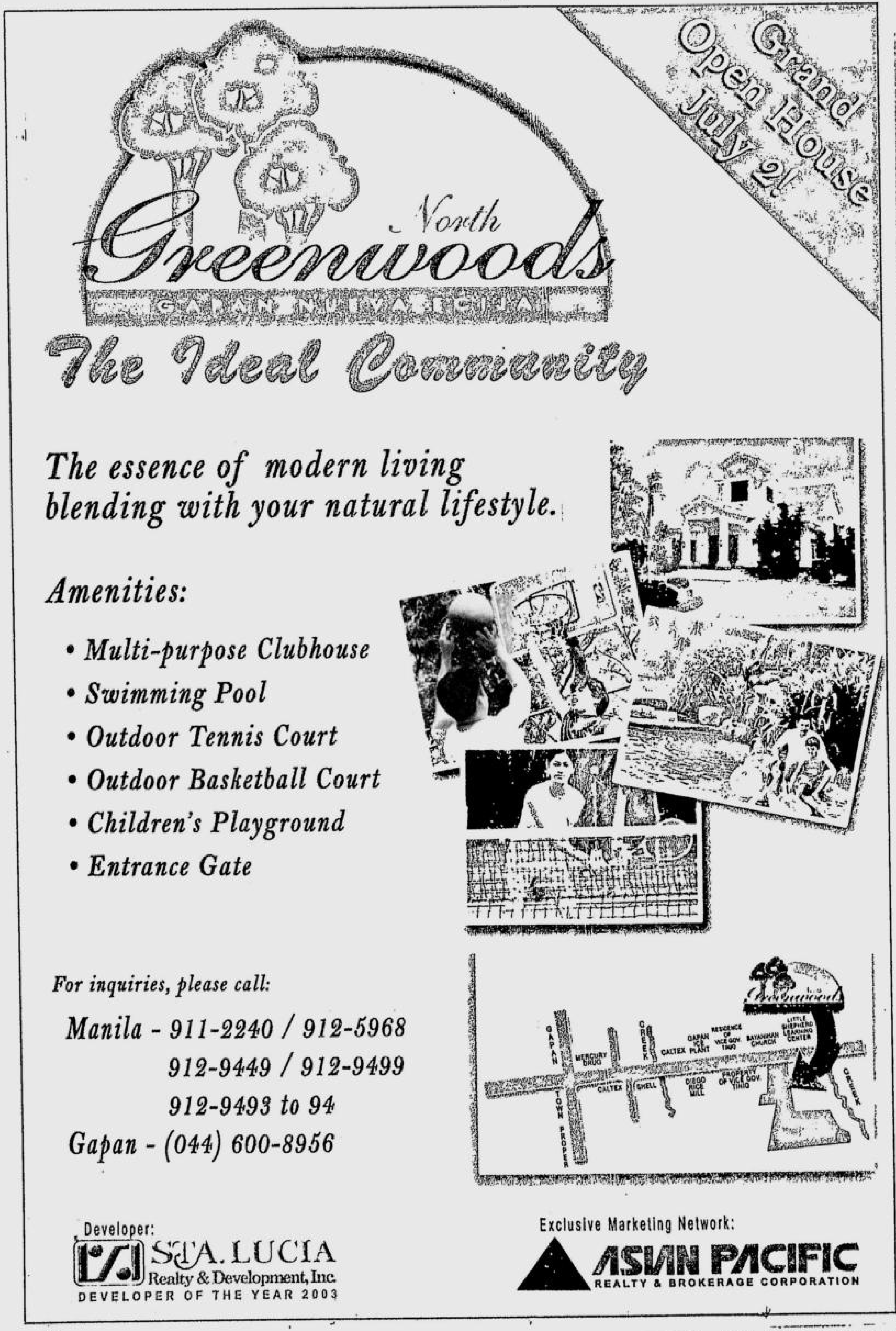

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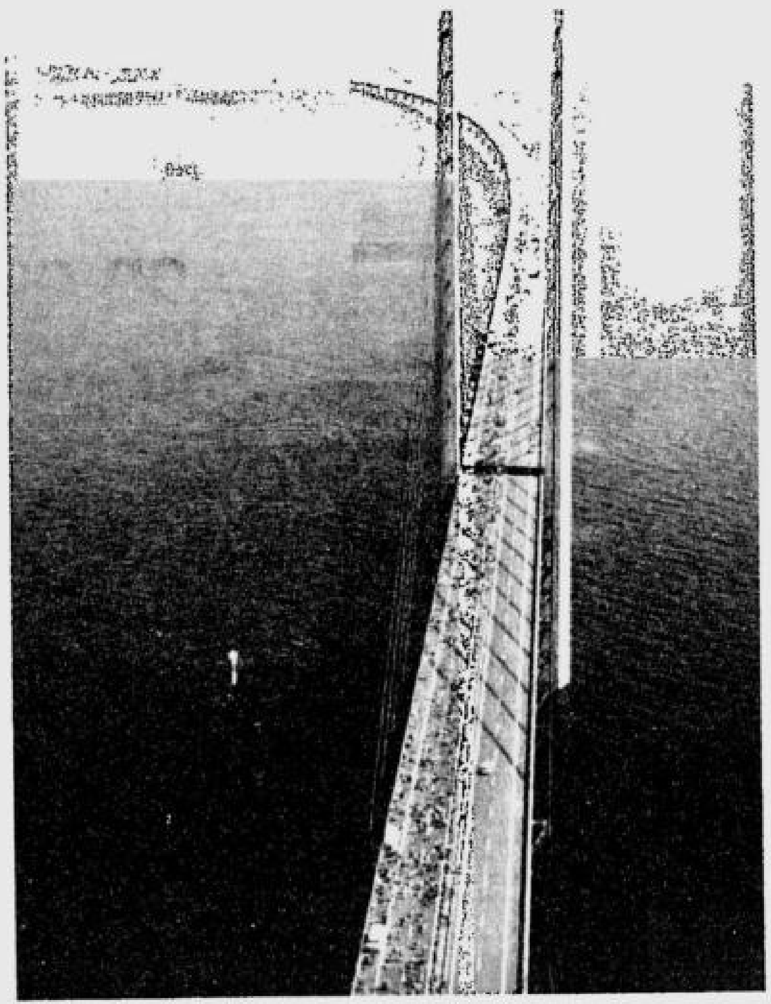

SOME 50,000 people walk over the new bridge between Malmo in Sweden and Copenhagen in Denmark in this June 10, 2000 photo. AP

Swedes, Danes find mental gap hard to cross despite bridge

MALMO, Sweden—A bridge-and-tunnel link between Sweden and Denmark opened five years ago Friday amid royal fanfare and lofty visions of greater integration among the one-time bitter rivals.

Today, Swedes and Danes are becoming aware the bridge has done little to narrow the mental gap that spans the 16-km Oresund waterway between Malmo and the Danish capital Copenhagen.

Like the larger project of uniting Europe, the dream of a creating an integrated metropolitan area here has been held back by a cultural divide that affects everything from the color of hot dogs to the sense of humor.

"I was surprised at how big the differences are," said Ann-Catrin Lubbe, a 45-year-old Swede who's lived in Denmark for six years but is moving back to Sweden in August because she's homesick.

"We Swedes are very dutiful. If we've said 'yes,' then it means yes. But in Denmark you can't trust either the local authorities, the state, businesses or others."

The outsider might not immediately appreciate the differences between these Scandinavian neighbors. They both believe in a generous welfare state, they speak similar languages, and it's hard to tell them apart by appearance.

Yet Danes and Swedes—who warred with each other for centuries—can rattle off a list of stereotypes about each other: Swedes are dull, formal and can't handle their liquor; Danes are jovial and easygoing, but dishonest in business and xenophobic.

"Mentally I still think there are big barriers. It's going to take a generation" to overcome, said Ann Lisa Georgia James, a 30-year-old Dane who moved to Malmo, Sweden's third largest city, in 2001.

The road-and-rail link starts just south of Malmo, where the bridge extends in a gentle arch toward an artificial island where it goes underground before surfacing in Atmager, south of Copenhagen. *AP*

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Stigma of AIDS hampers war on virus in Asia

TOKYO—Resources to fight AIDS are increasingly reaching Asia, but the deep-rooted stigma of the disease still prevents many victims from accessing them, experts said ahead of a major conference on the epidemic.

"With generic drugs, medications are becoming less expensive in Asia," said Hiroshi Hasegawa, a veteran Japanese AIDS activist.

However, in order to allow the millions of people in the region who are infected to benefit from the drugs and medical services, he said, "We must work to ease the stigma against people with HIV."

Open discussion about sexuality and drug use is still rare in many parts of the Asia-Pacific region, he said.

"Women in South Asia, gays in Northeast Asia, drug users in Southeast Asia: they are vulnerable to infections, but they are socially weak," he said. "That stops them from advocacy or openly seeking the treatments available."

Hasegawa will be among 3,000 participants from 60 countries at the Seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, to be held in the western Japanese city of Kobe from Friday through Tuesday.

The event, themed "bridging science and community," follows a 2001 conference in Melbourne, Australia. It will feature lectures and forums by experts, health care providers and activists to share their experiences and discuss the latest medical advances.

"How are we going to listen to the voices of vulnerable people who are often victims of the disease?" said Masayoshi Tarui, vice secretary general of the congress' secretariat and a professor of philosophy at Keio University.

"How are we going to include their voices in social policies? Those are the issues to be addressed at the conference." Hasegawa said: "What we, people with HIV, are interested in is how many people will be able to access treatments and how we can promote our cause in the global community."

The Asia-Pacific region has a lower infection rate—about 0.4 percent of the adult population—yet more resources available to fight HIV than hard-hit areas such as Africa, experts said.

An estimated 5.4 million-11.8 million Asians were living with HIV in 2004, up from 4.6 million-10.5 million in 2002, according to UNAIDS.

Treatments are reaching Asia, but many governments still lack the will to fight HIV/AIDS effectively in their countries or across the region, say experts.

"We are finally seeing treatments becoming available, even in developing countries," said Masayoshi Tarui. "Governments must take coordinated leadership roles to fight HIV infections in the region."

Experts are calling for better public information campaigns on HIV/AIDS in Asia, because many people infected with the virus still seek little or no help for fear of social condemnation.

"For example in Northeast Asia, governments have been reluctant to aggressively tackle HIV/AIDS," said Takashi Sawada, an HIV expert and a physician at Kanagawa Workers' Medical Cooperative. *AFP*

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Asia's youth hanker for money, gadgets and world peace, says poll

HONG KONG—Asian youngsters are money-mad, vain and love gadgets yet yearn for world peace, according to a survey Thursday that painted the region's youth as increasingly wealthy and success-oriented.

The study of 7,200 young people in eight countries found the Internet and technology fundamental to their lifestyles with 62 percent of respondents, aged between eight and 24, owning a mobile phone, 45 percent a desktop computer and 23 percent an MP3 player.

Half of all 12 to 24-year-olds named the Internet as the most helpful medium for product and service information over television and newspapers, while one-third of them expect to spend even more time online next year.

"A consumption crazy, aspirational, driven generation, they are money-focused yet moral, school is important and success everything," said Steven Garton, director of media research Asia Pacific for Synovate which conducted the poll for MSN, Internet company Yahoo! and music network MTV.

"Their favorite food is fast, favorite drink is soft and preferred birthday gift a mobile phone." The study showed that young Asians have a hefty consumption clout with eight in 10 influencing family shopping for soft drinks and snacks, and three quarters influencing the family fast-food purchase.

"However it's not all sport and shopping. Today's young Asians worry about the future ahead and what being an adult may hold for them," Garton said.

A secure job is the number one concern about growing up for 19 percent of these Asians, while 16 percent worry about being financially stable.

The study also showed that while many start off wanting to be doctors, by the time they hit 15 their desire for money develops and their top career choice is running their own business.

There is a sense of excitement about adult life for them, as a fifth look forward to the prospects of having family, and many of them are ready to be independent and influential, the study said.

The singlemost change youngsters would like to see is world peace, with almost a fifth saying that was top priority, while almost as many are aspiring activists, wanting to change social problems like drugs and corruption.

Less altruistically, 15 percent of them said if there was anything they could change in the world it would be their appearance.

They also want to be more popular or simply famous, according to the study of youngsters in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Philippines, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. *AFP*

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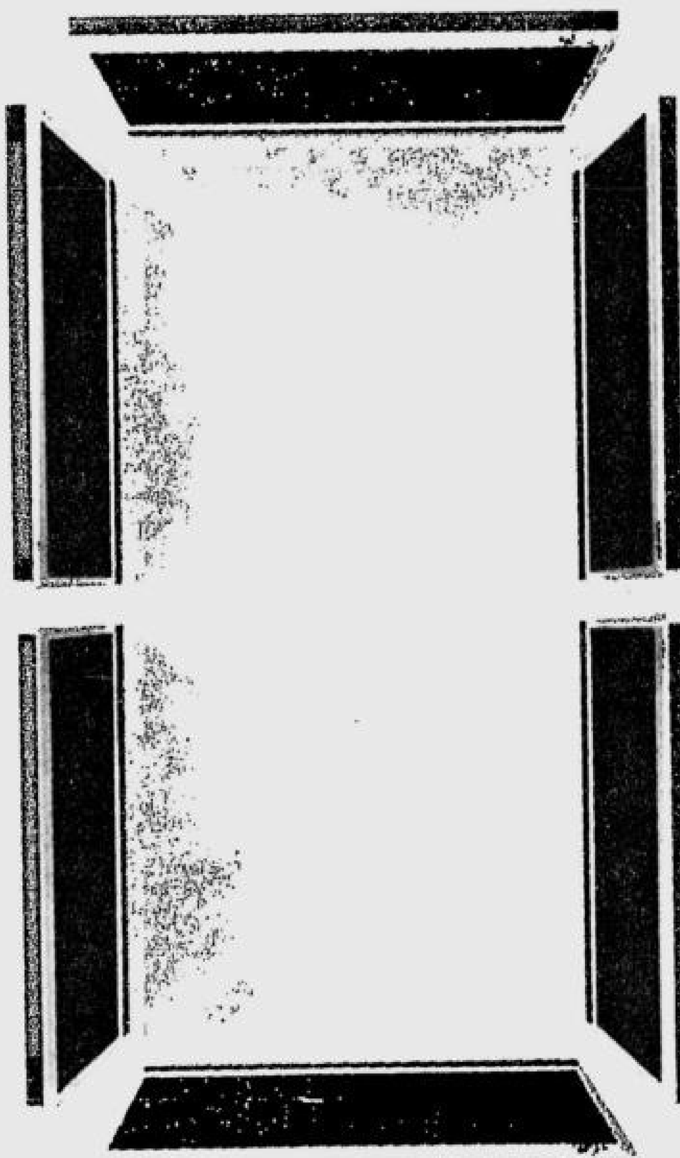

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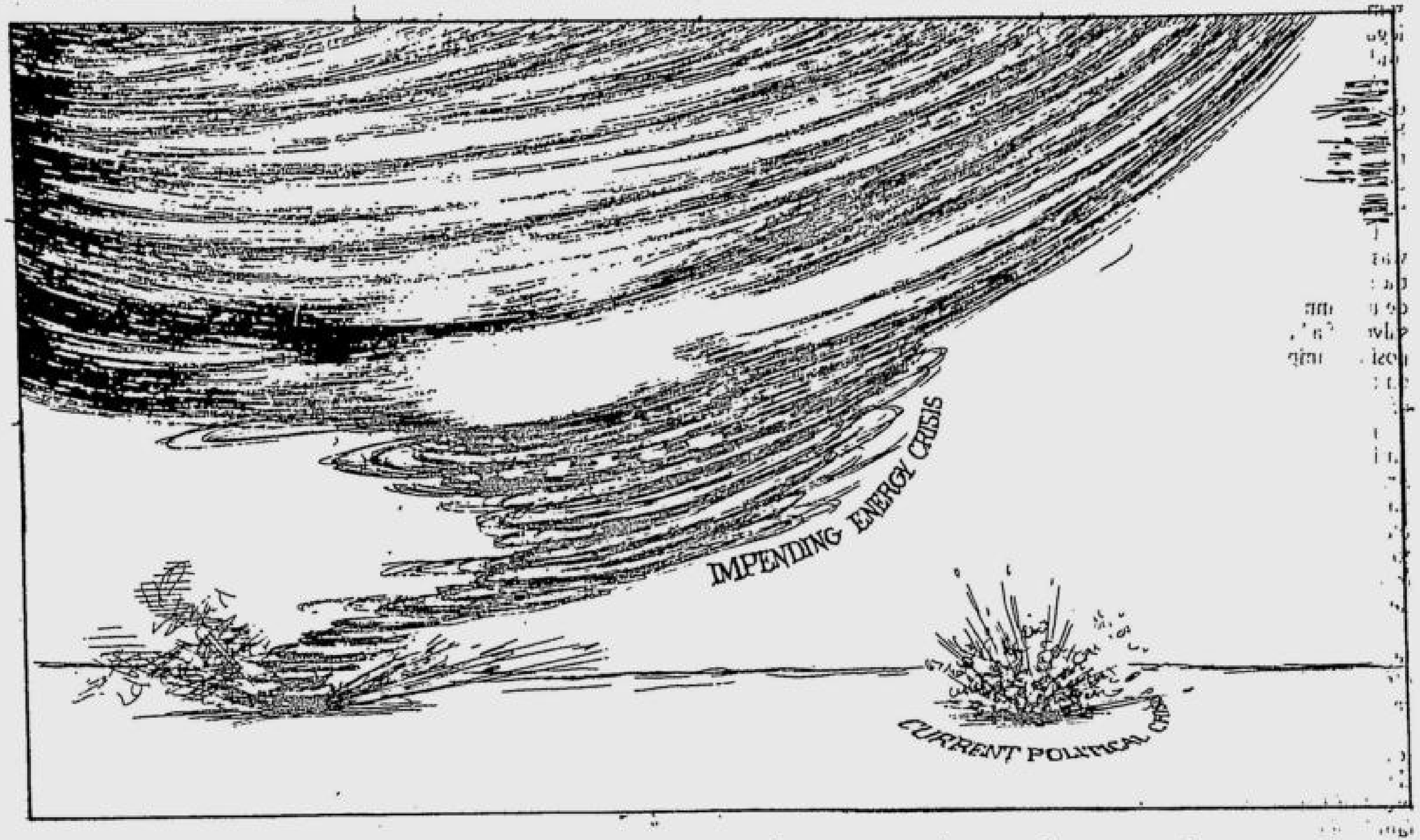


Window dressing

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, in what have clearly been difficult, even personally painful, decisions for her, has decided to try to regain the public's trust through a series of moves to prove her apology was sincere. On Wednesday, her big move was to send away her husband (and, later that day, her son said he'd go away as well). The decision was met with tears and sympathy from those personally close to her. Unfortunately, what has been personally painful has not been publicly successful.

There is a reason for this, and it is a basic one. The President's efforts to recover lost ground involves gestures that are reactive in nature. In politics it is called window dressing—a cosmetic solution to a more basic problem.

Ms Arroyo's basic problem is one of legitimacy. An administration that trumpeted its million-vote plurality has had that plurality put in doubt, because of the President's admitted insistence on following-up on that plurality being reflected in the official numbers. In a sense, the tactical moves of the administration have, after a year in office, come back to haunt it.

What were those moves? Its decision to set aside opposition to the swift canvassing of votes, because the country couldn't afford to have the June 30, 2004 date for a presidential inauguration arrive without a proclaimed president-elect. For all its peevishness and foot-dragging, the opposition did have a valid point, even reducing its demands to the results of three provinces, precisely so that the less radical among its ranks could tell their supporters to move on.

The next flawed move, of course, was the administration's reaction to the surfacing of the controversial tapes. It still has a lot of explaining to do, about the Palace producing two versions, and a political henchman of the President's brother-in-law, Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, surfacing to claim he was "Gary." Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and the National Telecommunications Commission, too, didn't help matters in waving the law at media. The conduct of the administration members of the House of Representatives, as well, reminds us more of the days of Ferdinand Marcos' Batasan Pambansa than a democratic legislature. For once, the Senate has seemed (slightly) more mature and efficient.

All the window dressing in the world cannot disguise the unease felt by the public over the conduct of the President's own alter egos in the Cabinet and her other officials. The President's evasion of the issue for three weeks, fairly or not, has served to heighten the skepticism with which her apology has been met. It continues to haunt her efforts to try to give the country newsworthy goodies every day or two, in the form of sacrificial pawns such as her husband, and now, members of her official family.

To sacrifice others, whether out of tactical considerations or a genuine desire to appease the people, evades the preeminent expectation of accountability. The President continues to evade the clamor for her to personally account to the country as to her conduct during the national elections last year. She must do this without equivocation. She must do this by responding, point by point, to the questions raised by the opposition. She must eliminate all doubts that remain concerning the close to 17 percent of the vote even Namfrel can't vouch for. This is how both moral and political courage—which she has tried, but failed thus far to show—can be proven.

The President must demonstrate her assertions of a clear mandate can stand scrutiny. That so soon, a mere year after her inauguration, brings her to a point where she has to undertake this distasteful task only demonstrates how serious her crisis of legitimacy is.

All the brain power and tactical skill at her disposal would be better used in providing proof of a genuine mandate. As it is, there are portions of the population, particularly in Cebu, that are offended over having their votes questioned. The President lost in Luzon, and her votes in Mindanao are being challenged. If she doesn't give a satisfactory explanation for those votes, then her other votes must perforce be questioned in turn. So she must return to the real question, and it is: Can she prove to the people that she won?

Why doesn't GMA join Mike and Mikey abroad?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TO GET one more load off President Macapagal-Arroyo's back, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo has volunteered to remove himself from the scene and live abroad, away from his wife. This is not to infer anything, but I just remembered, isn't a certain Vicky Toh also living abroad?

* * *

Son Rep. (on leave) Mikey Arroyo is going with his father. This is a "big sacrifice," said the President. But Mikey will continue receiving his salary and allowances as a congressman even while he is living abroad and not working. Is that a sacrifice?

* * *

But it is really difficult to be separated from one's family, like the OFWs separated from their families. Now, that is really sacrificing. I, too, don't believe in separating families. So why doesn't GMA join Mike and Mikey abroad?

* * *

Hell hath no fury like a woman who has lost her husband. And that was actress Susan Roces at her press conference the other day. She was really hopping mad.

Asked if she would run against GMA in a snap poll, she quickly replied, "If needed, yes!" She said later, however, that she preferred a man to be president. Well, who? Rez Cortez?

Kidding aside, Susan said somebody else should lead the anti-GMA movement and she would be a follower. Will there be a cat fight between the two women?

* * *

Many people do not agree that we should accept GMA's apology and give her another chance. *Ano, ganun na lang?* they say. She should receive some punishment at least. Not to punish her goes against the principle of crime and punishment.

I agree, but what punishment?

Some want her to resign, of course. Which she will not do if she can help it.

Impeach her? That's like throwing the turtle into the river. An impeachment complaint will surely be defeated in the House whose members, save for 15 opposition members, are all pro-administration. Then she cannot be impeached again for at least a year. And even assuming she is impeached, she will be acquitted in the Senate where the administration has a majority.

Who will replace her, assuming she is unseated? The Constitution says it should be Vice President Noli de Castro. Not to denigrate Noli, but many people are not happy with that prospect.

How about a junta or a council? Worse. It could be a leap from the frying pan into the fire. We may become the newest banana republic.

A snap poll then? But who would supervise the polls, the same Comelec that we have now? And will we use the same system? Never mind an election. We need credible elections, not just any election.

But she still has to be penalized. She did a very bad thing. She cannot get away with just a "so sorry" apology.

All right, but what penalty? I think that at the very least, she should be censured. By whom? By Congress, a co-equal branch of the government. But members of Congress are predominantly pro-administration, so the likelihood is that the censure would be very mild, like a mere slap on the wrist.

By the Supreme Court then? But it was the Supreme Court that made her President—unconstitutionally, some legal experts say—to replace President Estrada. So the Supreme Court censure may also be very mild.

So who should censure her? She committed the sin against the people. She may have robbed them of their rightful president. So it should be the people who should censure her. I suggest a committee composed of representatives from different sectors of society write the censure. The stronger, the better so future presidents will not dare make the same mistake again.

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo's confession and apology Monday evening prompted some last-minute changes and insertions in the script of "Hello, Garci," the anniversary show of Kapihan sa Manila also showing that night at the Manila Hotel. The changes were done beautifully.

A huge television screen was on the stage and GMA's talk was to be projected there for the benefit of the early comers, but the 10-minute address was finished before the electricians could finish the connections.

The show was a bigger hit than the apology. Willie Nepomuceno impersonated Presidents Marcos (speaking from the other world), Ramos and Estrada, former Senators Gringo Honasan and Raul Roco, and comedian Dolphy with a Zsa Zsa Padilla look-alike in tow. Pilita Corrales, Nonoy Zuñiga, Marri Nallos and Juan Rodrigo belted out favorite songs during Willie's costume changes.

The monologues and dialogues sounded better on stage, but since I feel sorry for those who missed the show, I will cite a few of the jokes for their benefit. (Next time, don't miss the show.)

"Roco," who was education secretary during GMA's first term, said the purpose of the conversation with GMA was not to cheat. Using excerpts from the conversation, he showed that while GMA and her phone pal talked about "making changes," they were not changes in the results of the elections, but changes in textbooks with many errors.

"Marcos," speaking from the dead, said he bears no ill will against Cory Aquino who chased him out of Malacañang. In fact, he said he feels sorry for her. He is luckier than her with their children. He said his daughter Imee is now a congresswoman and his son Bongbong is a governor, while Cory has Kris.

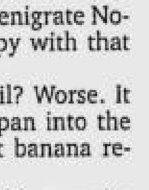
"Dolphy" was interviewed by Pilita Corrales who observed that his relationship with Zsa Zsa was longer than the rest. Why? she asked.

"Dolphy" replied that his wives are like the letters of the alphabet—"from A to Z, from Alma to Zsa Zsa. Zsa Zsa is already letter Z, so she is the last."

Speaking of last, Kapihan sa Manila thanks the sponsors of the show: Manila Hotel, Duty-Free Philippines, PLDT-Smart, Pagcor and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, as well as those who bought tickets to the show.

GMA's confession: Legal score, political penance

PASSION FOR REASON



Raul C. Pangalangan

BELOW ARE excerpts summarized from the legal brief I submitted to the congressional hearings chaired by Rep. Gilbert C. Remulla on the "Gloriagate" tapes. I conclude that under the available facts, the tapes are admissible in evidence before the Congress, whether it acts in aid of legislation or as an impeachment body.

The tapes are not barred by the Anti-Wiretapping Law or RA 4200. It says that any tape "obtained or secured…in violation of the preceding sections of this Act" is inadmissible in any proceeding. Those "preceding sections" say that the law applies only (a) when the speakers have not authorized the recording, and (b) when the tape pertains to private communications.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's confession merely referred to "the issue of the tape recordings"; she confessed to the "conversation with … a certain Comelec official" but not to the tapes. She confirmed neither the contents of the conversations, nor the integrity of the tapes (which indeed her followers in Congress continue to impugn). She must confess to being the voice caught on the tape in order to assert that she hadn't authorized the wiretap.

Once she does, next she must raise the objection herself or through counsel, and not through administration congressmen. Her right to privacy cannot be invoked for her in absentia by others. Otherwise, GMA can "have her cake and eat it too"—she is "Ma'am" for the purpose of blocking the admissibility of the tapes, but can deny being "Ma'am" for the purpose of being held responsible for the content of the conversations.

Indeed, to say that strangers to a conversation can assert a man's privacy empowers those strangers to waive these rights in his behalf. That is a dangerous interpretation of the right to privacy.

Even assuming that GMA prevails on admissibility, still the "Hello, Garci" conversation—about election cheating, intimidation and manipulation—was not "private" in character and is not protected by the Anti-Wiretapping Law. RA 4200 protects only "private communications." The Supreme Court has ruled that "when the exchange between [the parties is] not private, its tape recording is not prohibited." Otherwise to exclude the wiretapped evidence will "force the listener to secrecy no matter how obscene [or] criminal, … the call may be," because "[s]urely the law was never intended for such mischievous results."

The Constitution speaks of the "right of the people to information on matters of public concern" and declares a "policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest." The Supreme Court explains the role of these provisions in democratic governance:

"These twin provisions … promote transparency in policy-making … as well as provide the people sufficient information to exercise effectively other constitutional rights. …. If the government does not disclose its official acts … whatever citizens say, even if expressed without restraint, will be speculative and amount to nothing. These twin provisions are also essential to hold public officials 'at all times … accountable to the people.'" (Chavez v. PEA-Amari, 2002)

The US Supreme Court has likewise balanced the right to privacy with the claims of the public. In Bartnicki v. Vopper (2001), an unknown person intercepted a cellular phone conversation between school union officials about on-going negotiations with the local school board, and in which they spoke of intimidating the hard-liners on the other side of the bargaining table. A copy of the tape was left in the mailbox of a local radio station, which played the tapes. The Court held that the parties' interest in privacy must yield to the government's interest in protecting the freedom of speech, because the "negotiations in question were a matter of public concern" and "privacy concerns g[i]ve way when balanced against the interest in publishing matters of public importance."

This interpretation does not jeopardize the constitutional protection for the right to privacy. Bona fide private conversations, like confidences between husband and wife, remain private and beyond the reach of "the prying eye, the intrusive ear." I disagree with those who say that such a recording, once disclosed, thus become part of the public domain, "open season" to all eavesdroppers. The right "to be let alone" is sacred, and cannot be lost simply because it has been violated.

The Gloriagate tapes must be played in the halls of Congress. It must be heard by the Filipino people freely, without fear of harassment by the Department of Justice. The President said that "the issue of the tape recordings has spun out of control" and that she "want[ed] to set the record straight" and explain to the "people [she] was elected to serve." Then let the sovereign people listen to the tapes and judge for themselves.

The President must not suppress the playing of the tapes. If she were to raise any objections, she must do it herself or through counsel. If she invokes the protection of RA 4200, first she must "take full responsibility for [her] actions" and for her oath to "preserve and defend [the] Constitution, execute its laws [and] do justice to every man …." The apology cannot be sincere if its aim is to provide a cover-up, lest the apology be one step forward for the truth, but two steps backward for justice.

* * *

Comments to raulcp@2pdee.net

The 'Susan card'

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

TWO events, connected to the current political stand-off, flared on Wednesday, grabbing and competing for the newspaper headlines. The first was the announcement by President Macapagal-Arroyo that her husband, Mike Arroyo, had gone on voluntary exile abroad (for parts unknown) to remove him from the line of fire of corruption allegations involving their son, Rep. Mikey Arroyo, and her brother-in-law, Rep. Iggy Arroyo.

Almost simultaneously, Susan Roces, widow of defeated presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., held a press conference vehemently calling for the "immediate resignation" of the President and declaring that she had "stolen the presidency, not once, but twice."

The denunciation added fuel to the crisis that was dangerously moving toward a showdown in the streets. The intervention of Roces and the President's announcement represented the opening salvos of a battle for public opinion by the two opposing camps as the conflict became more venomous and veered away from the calm atmosphere of a constitutional mechanism of resolution.

In moving Roces to the frontline of the conflict, anti-government forces ranged against President Arroyo have foreshadowed a more nasty campaign to unseat her. Regime opponents have played their "Susan Roces card" and are using her to mobilize a critical mass to march in the streets to fast-track their campaign to topple the President through extra-constitutional means.

The card was played after efforts to fuel public rage over the scandals on the alleged *jueteng* payoffs and the tapes failed to give momentum to the campaign.

The President's announcement of Mike Arroyo's departure was in response to an earlier clamor from her allies to show a more emphatic proof of her determination to clean up her own family of members, who have been linked by witnesses in congressional hearings to alleged *jueteng* payoffs. Earlier Mikey Arroyo took an indefinite leave of absence from Congress. But this move did not seem to mollify those who are demanding that the President show more drastic action and sacrifice her closest relatives.

Although Mike Arroyo was not directly linked to the jueteng scandal, his exile appears to be a recognition by the President of widespread perception that Mike had been interfering behind the scenes in official business. As a result of this perception, Mike has served as the lightning rod to a whispering campaign linking him to unspecified corrupt practices.

Although a Senate investigation failed to pin down Mike's involvement in the Jose Pidal case, allegations involving him have nevertheless been politically damaging to the administration.

It is not clear whether Mike's exile would reduce the fallout from her admission that she had talked with a certain Commission on Elections official regarding election matters in wiretapped telephone conversations. The tapes have pushed the *jueteng* scandal to the sidelines. The tapes affair has been hammered at by her opponents and that is now being highlighted by Susan Roces' demand for the President's resignation. In a denunciation marked by its vehemence, Roces made the sweeping accusation and conclusion that "the gravest thing that you have done is that you have stolen the presidency, not once, but twice."

Of the President's apology on national television, where she said she was sorry for making a call to the Comelec official and called it "a lapse in judgment," Roces said: "I cannot accept your apology. You have betrayed public trust. You do not have the right to lead the people." Roces then demanded the immediate resignation of the President, saying that it would be the "most honorable thing to do."

By playing the Susan card, the President's opponents appeared to have presented Roces as a rallying figure of their campaign. Although she declined to take the role, she said she would join a movement to unseat the President "if somebody will lead."

This statement was taken by those who have been trying to make her take a more active and conspicuous role in the campaign to topple the President as willingness to engage in street actions. They have now harnessed her to be on the frontline and by doing so, they are testing her capacity for mass mobilization on a scale that would force the President to step down.

The recruitment of Roces for bruising street activism suggests that anti-government forces are upping the ante in the deadly power struggle and are steering their campaign toward a showdown in the streets and further away from the channels of a constitutional method of conflict resolution, such as impeachment. With this strategy, Roces' crowd-drawing power will soon be tested in the face of apathy and lack of enthusiasm for street action of the middle class which has so far stayed clear of the fray.

It took two towering figures to bring people, especially members of the middle class, to the streets in Edsa I. These were Jaime Cardinal Sin and Cory Aquino, the rallying point of the opposition. It was Sin's call that sent crowds to Edsa. In Edsa II, the opposition had no central rallying point but Sin again played a central mobilizing role to galvanize mass action against then President Joseph Estrada. Edsa II was a spontaneous combustion sparked by the suppression by the Senate serving as the impeachment tribunal of the brown envelopes. Within minutes of the explosion, people were swarming with rage in the streets to protest. They did not need a call from Cardinal Sin.

This time, the question facing the middle class is: Will they rush to the streets in response to a call from Susan Roces?

'Artista'

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

A MOVIE star is spotted in a mall and word spreads. "*Artista!*" somebody screams and an excited crowd builds up quickly around the celebrity.

In another context, we exclaim "*Artista!*" tongue-in-cheek when a close friend or relative hams it up. We pretend to protest but it's all taken in good fun.

On still other occasions, we may say "*Artista!*" in disgust—even anger—at someone who's obviously trying to deceive us.

In the last week, "*artista*" has figured prominently in many of our conversations about politics. I leave it to you to recall how we've said, "*Artista*," watching the President, and a real-live *artista*, Susan Roces, as she is now pitted against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Yet, I feel all this *artista* talk isn't just about our fixation over celebrities; rather it speaks of our world view, wise in its own way in recognizing that life is a stage, and that we are all artists in performance.

Political performance

Performance is at a premium with politics. What comes to our minds immediately is Ferdinand Marcos. Even those of us who opposed his dictatorship accept that, recognizing with a bit of grudging admiration, that nearly all of his speeches were oratorical feats. Of course, Marcos often used demagoguery, a master at projecting himself as the nation's *Apo*, a benevolent patron who cared, and yet who was ready to strike you down if you dared dissent.

When Marcos called for snap elections, he found himself facing a housewife and widow, Cory Aquino. Macho that he was, Marcos occasionally questioned Tita Cory's ability to govern on the basis of gender. But it was also that machismo that prevented him from pulling out all stops to attack her. What he did was to field Imelda Marcos against Cory.

Imelda had years of experience in performance, literally singing and dancing to capture votes. Every step she took, every word she uttered, was performance. She was a master at code-switching, shifting from English to Tagalog, depending on her audience. She knew that even with the masses, she could get away with speaking in English because it bolstered her claims to being of the upper class. Imelda knew her tone of voice was as important as language, the one projecting her as an affectionate doting mother at one moment and a naughty coquette at the next.

Cory on the other hand was a political neophyte. She was bland, her voice almost a monotone, and her halting Tagalog gave away her all too bourgeois class origins. She didn't sing or dance. Neither did she use the image of the grieving widow or the underdog. In fact, in retrospect, it was her "underperforming" that highlighted the contrasts between what she stood for, set against the empty glitter and rhetoric of Ferdinand and Imelda. Voting for Cory was a way too of saying that we could no longer afford their brand of show-biz politics.

Battle of women

Twenty years later, we again see two women pitted against each other. What makes this new battle so interesting is that one of the protagonists, Susan Roces, is, literally an *artista*. This part of her persona is actually a liability because the country is to some extent leery of movie star politicians.

Yet, even the most staid of political commentators are sitting up and taking notice, fascinated by Susan Roces' political artistry. In December, she was the grieving widow seeking restitution; a few weeks ago, when "Gloriagate" first exploded, she was like a cautious mother calling for prudence and sobriety. Last Wednesday, we saw the furious widow as well as a fuming grandmother, concerned about what the political situation was doing to young Filipinos.

A few years ago, Susan Roces in public would elicit a fan's version of "*Artista!*" Today, we quietly think, "*Artista!*" in a positive way: "Wow, she performs!"

Susan Roces' press conference was, well, entertaining as performances should, but I was also amazed at how she could rouse people without resorting to demagoguery. She draws frequently on Filipino colloquialisms and proverbs, in one instance effectively conveying her disdain for the President: "*Ang sinungaling ay kapatid ng magnanakaw* (Liars are siblings of thieves)."

Look too at how she deftly shuttled between Tagalog and English in an interview after the press conference, in reference to the the President: "What she has is *tapang ng apog*, not courage, she can lie with a straight face." "*Tapang ng apog*" was all that was needed with the masses, terse and to the point. The longer English explanation was oriented to our more clueless upper classes, who still wonder if perhaps Gloria Arroyo is just an innocent hapless victim of circumstances.

In the eyes

Could it be that we just have a President who doesn't want to stoop down to perform like an *artista*? I'd argue that our problems come about because, precisely, this is a President who thinks too highly of herself, who thinks she is a good political performer. Like ham actors and bad karaoke singers, politicians like the President inflict greater suffering because they try too hard.

Remember again, Cory Aquino was bland and bourgeois, but left office with dignity and remains a senior political adviser to the nation. Gloria Arroyo's weakness is that she can't, or maybe doesn't want, to relate to the nation—*manhid* (insensitive) in Susan Roces' words. It's not surprising the President's televised act of contrition was mostly in English, which meant the majority of Filipinos never got her message. Try translating "lapse of judgment" into Filipino.

She had another lapse of judgment "exiling" her husband and son and droning away, "My family is called to sacrifice our personal happiness…" Oh, Tita, my heart bleeds, knowing how harsh life can be in America or Hong Kong. And Susan Roces' reaction? "*Hindi ko alam kung ano ang kasaysayan ng kanilang pagmamahalan* (I am not familiar with the history of their love)."

I will repeat it's not just a matter of language. Tita Cory often spoke in monotonous English, but she made up for that by projecting sensibility, sensitivity…and more.

For all the metaphors of theater we use to describe our lives, our politics, ultimately it's not melodramatic scripts that count. We actually judge the quality of the performance (and, by extension, of life) by the sincerity of its delivery.

Frankly, I think Susan Roces would be more powerful putting her practical homegrown wisdom to use as a matriarch of an adviser, rather than as a politician. I think of the way she explained her rejection of the presidential apology, a simple one-liner that answers a question we've all been asking ourselves as we've plodded along with the Arroyo presidency: "It's in the eyes."

Susan Roces, the *artista*, knows.

Apology and restitution

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AS the cliché goes: More questions were raised than answered by President Macapagal-Arroyo when she made her televised apology.

Perhaps the most extreme reaction was that of Susan Roces-Poe, who called her a liar and demanded the President's resignation in view of her "admission" that she had cheated in last year's polls. Although, if you parse the President's televised statement carefully, what you'll see is more an admission of an "impropriety"—calling up an election official while the counting had yet to be finished—than of conspiring to alter the true outcome of the polls.

The President did not address the contents of the tapes themselves, only admitting to making the call. And more importantly, she did not say anything about what she intended to do to atone for this "lapse in judgment." Is her announcement that her husband is going on long-term exile abroad just the first step in a multi-step process of restitution? Or does she hope removing his formidable bulk from the scene will be enough to quell the unease even among her allies?

Still, before we go exploring the meanings behind her sparse words uttered on TV, in fairness let's acknowledge the courage—or humility—it took to admit to a wrongdoing before millions of Filipinos. Like her or not, she is the first senior official of this country to ever say "sorry" to the people, even if Ms Roces-Poe says "sorry is not enough." Have the Marcoses ever apologized for the excesses of martial law, especially the human rights violations committed by the military and police? Has Erap said any word in contrition for the corruption that attended his term? As a friend wrote: "I credit her for her apology, *bitin* notwithstanding."

* * *

A MANTRA during the Cory years was that "forgiveness begins with confession, and should be followed by restitution."

The trouble with our recent history is that we moved posthaste into punishment—exile for the Marcoses, imprisonment (however luxurious) for Erap—without first going through the arduous process of a trial. And while we let the accusations and counter-accusations proceed ad infinitum, we allowed our anger to simmer, and our memories to fade. So that it is now possible for Imelda Marcos to claim barefaced that the Marcoses never committed any human rights violations, and for Erap to offer to lead the country anew or, barring that, join a "junta" that will assume the mantle of leadership.

This time around, President GMA has taken the first step in the cycle of forgiveness. She has apologized. The trouble is that few seem to want to accept her apology and let the matter rest. Stealing the elections is too big a sin to be wiped clean by one Our Father and 10 Hail Marys, an increasing number declare. The only way to expunge her guilt is to step down, resign, and pave the way for a new administration.

Well, here we go again. We're rushing pell-mell into punishment without settling the matter through an orderly and credible investigation, an impartial hearing, and a verdict acceptable to the people. This is why civil society groups should pursue the formation of a "Truth Commission" to look into the veracity of the tapes and the conduct of the elections and thus the legitimacy of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's claim to the presidency.

Indeed, talk has it that it was the possibility of such a commission that convinced GMA to finally 'fess up.

* * *

A FRIEND of mine, Anthony Pangilinan, who is a human resources consultant and motivational speaker, suggests a way out of the crisis of confidence and credibility besetting the nation. He would be perfectly happy, he says, if the President would read in public even just a portion of a "dream statement" he drafted, reflecting his own sentiments and hopes.

Though I'm tempted to advise Anthony to "dream on," I'm reprinting his draft just in case someone in Malacañang is looking for a way out of the impasse.

"My dear countrymen:

"I have confessed and asked for forgiveness. I wanted to move on and pursue an even more determined reform agenda, in my programs and manner of governance. But it seems there are those among you who believe my actions were not only improper, but illegal and violative of the Constitution.

"Even as I believe in my heart that I did not cheat you, the people, or any other candidate of an election victory, I am fully committed, more than ever, to establishing a government above reproach and of integrity. A public office is a public trust. I heed the call for the formation of a truth commission composed of individuals of highest repute that will determine whether my actions did constitute an illegal and criminal act.

"I will be fully supportive of its findings and if indeed it is judged I had violated the Constitution I was tasked to uphold, I will be the first to offer my resignation and turn over the government to the duly constitutionally designated official. Let us firmly uphold the constitutional process. I am also submitting myself to whatever consequences I deserve as prescribed by law.

"If found innocent, however, I appeal to all that this office be given the opportunity to do its job and I shall not be deterred from pursuing the challenge of turning the country around and moving towards the progress so deeply yearned for by every Filipino.

"I invite former President Cory Aquino as first member and chair of this commission. I look forward to her assistance in naming the remaining members of the body. In the meantime, I ask that you all join me in protecting the Constitution and assuring that our actions—regardless of direction or leaning—are in full adherence to its provisions.

"*Maraming salamat at mabuhay ang Pilipinas.*"

Tales about men with tails and mermaids

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WORKING with a primary source like a historical document or book can be very challenging because when you read it, you cannot always take it at face value. For example, there is a book titled, "The Monkeys Have No Tails In Zamboanga," published in the American period which recalls a racist song of the same title. What is funny is that there are earlier travel accounts of the Philippines that refer to humans with tails. Guillame Joseph Hyacinthe Jean Baptiste le Gentil de la Galasiere, who visited the Philippines in 1776, scoffed at a Franciscan chronicler who was quoted as saying:

"It is said that in the Island of Mindoro there is a caste of men who have little tails, like those of monkeys. Several priests have witnessed this and have so assured me; and not long ago on the Pacific coast near Baler, a woman was found who had a tail. Of this I have been assured by the missionaries who saw her. It has not been possible to determine the race of these people, unless it be that they are of the Jewish race."

Reading the above reminded me of the many urban legends that are believed to be true today like the White Lady (ghost) of Balete Drive in Quezon City, the Manananggal who terrorized Tondo and got caught in the clotheslines and TV antennae, and Robina Gokongwei's alleged "snake twin" who preys on customers in the fitting rooms of Robinson's Department stores. All these stories are so fantastic and yet they claim to have had a shred of truth because they have been verified by "a friend of a friend" who of course cannot be interrogated directly.

One can think of several historical urban legends, like Andres Bonifacio having a love child in a place in Bicol, appropriately called Libog, Albay (now mercifully renamed Sto. Domingo), or the yarn about Rizal being the father of Adolf Hitler, the fruit of a one night stand in Vienna, or the rumor that the root of the Cojuangco fortune was a bag (or box) of money collected during the Revolution entrusted by Antonio Luna to his alleged girlfriend, Ysidra Cojuangco, before he was assassinated in Cabanatuan in 1899.

Each time I'm asked to comment on these historical urban legends, I present the historical documentation and people leave unconvinced because they want the fables to be true. I have enough materials on these urban legends to fill a book. My only problem is that I have little time to sit down and write it up.

Going back to Le Gentil's visit to the Philippines in 1776. He left some very interesting observations on the country and its people for European consumption. Like any typical guide book, he mentions the climate, natural resources, agricultural products, customs of the people and even has a chapter on earthquakes that he experienced. But there are some things that are almost incredible, like descriptions of mermaids and mermen of which engravings were made. Surely, all those books and maps that have illustrations of sea monsters and other strange creatures must have aroused fear among European readers.

In some early accounts I have read, there are descriptions of a sea-cow or *dugong*, that caused a lot of curiosity. This gentle creature was said to be what some European travelers mistook for mermaids or mermen. There seemed to be a lot of them centuries ago but their number has been decimated because although they were technically fish, their meat when cooked tasted like beef. Thus, on days of abstinence, meaning Fridays and during Lent, the Spaniards took to the *dugong* and thus reduced the species. Le Gentil gave this account of a creature that he seems to have seen and examined:

"This creature (I have not seen the male, but specimens of both sexes are known in the Philippines under the name of 'woman-fish') resembles a man or a woman only in organs of generation. The female has on the breast well-formed teats with which she suckles her young, holding them like a tender mother with her baby at her breast. All the rest of the body is like that of a fish. The features are very irregular. These creatures have a very large body and a long and thick tail like that of a dogfish. The head and face are round, but the face is flat, with very ugly features, with a large mouth and coarse snout, which looks something like that of an English or Irish greyhound or mastiff. The teeth look like the teeth of a mastiff, with two fangs on each, projecting from the mouth. The sides of this fish look very much like the sides of a man. Their nostrils are open like the nostrils of a dogfish. They have limbs that look like arms as far down as the elbow but the rest looks like the fin of any other fish. In the water the tips of the fins look like hands and fingers, although they are neither one or the other. The skin on the belly is white and soft. The skin of the back is like that of a dogfish but quite coarse. The fish does not talk or sing, although some persons claim that it is really the siren of which the ancients speak. When it is killed, it weeps and utters the most lamentable cries. It does not live out of water, but if not killed, it does not die for a long time after being taken from that element."

Reading the above passage, with pencil in hand trying to draw and recreate what was described, makes one feel like the proverbial blind men touching different parts of an elephant and getting everyone confused.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

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Fast-food 'daredevils'

MY son recently met a vehicular accident. A "daredevil" fast-food motorcycle rider cut him from the right side (third lane) to make a sharp left turn. My son was fortunate that the security staff and system of the place where the incident happened were efficient, and the photos they took proved useful during the investigation.

That same day, while waiting outside the police precinct, we witnessed a couple of fast-food riders speed by.

A few days later, I went to a street market and a daredevil fast-food rider zoomed past me with a bag of drinks in vending cups hanging from each wrist. I asked the law enforcer who was standing beside me why these riders are allowed to drive recklessly by authorities like him. His reply was "*Nagmamadali po kasi sila dahil nagde-deliver ng pagkain. Marami ngang naaaksidente sa kanila sa pagmamadali* (They're in a hurry to deliver food. In fact, many of them have met accidents for being in a rush)."

Our lawmakers should look into this. Fast-food companies commit to speedy delivery schedules as a selling point. In so doing, they jeopardize the lives and safety not only of their riders but also those of other motorists and pedestrians. I see these riders speeding like stuntmen along Edsa all the time. One time, my sister almost got run over by a fast-food rider coming from the other direction, while she was crossing Legaspi Street in Makati, a one-way street.

I was told that these riders are from outsourced agencies, and the fast-food companies will not assume the financial responsibility in the event of an accident. My son used his lifetime savings to buy his three-month-old car. As he tries to get over the trauma of this recent incident, he has to shell out money to get his car fixed. In the meantime, fast-food riders continue terrorizing people on the streets with their "daredevil" ways.

Again, I hope our lawmakers will look into this.

—SANDRA GARCIA,
Makati City

Can GMA still effectively govern?

SHOULD President Macapagal-Arroyo resign or not?

By way of comparison, why did US President Richard Nixon resign? Because he was caught on tape discussing and authorizing the cover-up of a crime—a "petty wiretapping-burglary" of the political opposition party headquarters in the Watergate complex. He resisted turning over the crucial tapes ("smoking gun") to the special prosecutor, but when the US Supreme Court directed him to surrender the tapes, and when a head-count of his political supporters in Congress showed he was likely to be impeached, he decided to resign.

In President Nixon's case, the tapes were not the result of illegal wiretapping. He had allowed the installation of the system for taping conversations in his office. In President Arroyo's case, lawyers say that the wiretapping was illegal as there was neither consent of the parties involved nor a valid court order that authorized it. Therefore, the tape is not admissible as evidence in court. They also say that President Arroyo cannot be compelled to answer questions about the tape because of her right against self-incrimination.

However, it seems to others that the issue is no longer so much legal as political. Copies of the tape (original or edited) have allegedly proliferated and so many have already listened to them. It seems that, these days, one can only wait for whatever will come out of the congressional hearings and for public opinion to crystallize.

But the bottom line is: At the end of the day, will President Arroyo still have the credibility to govern the country effectively?

Meantime, how do we appear to the rest of the world?

—ANTONIO A. AGUSTIN,
MLQU Faculty of Law,
Quiapo, Manila

Arroyo's apology

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has the credibility because she was chosen by the majority of the Filipinos. When can we learn to unite and support our leaders for the good of our country? The members of the opposition are clearly creating their opportunity to grab power for their own selfish agenda (shame on them). Our country is lagging behind the rest of the world (you can really feel it when you travel abroad) because of too much politics and the greed of some of our leaders. The President is right in calling for unity. We should rally behind her and start healing our dying country.—**Benedict John Guarin, London, UK**

* * *

She should not have made the call to the Comelec official in the first place. It was not a simple case of a lapse in judgment. It was a case of bad, very bad judgment. If she decides not to resign now, that's bad judgment No. 2. Or, better yet, lapse in judgment No. 2.—**Benji Abis, 229 Combe Ave., North York, Ontario, Canada, M3H 4K8**

* * *

The question is not whether hers is one of the voices on the tapes, but whether anyone has any business listening to the tapes or the private cell-phone conversations. Does the President not have a right to privacy? It's like saying she cannot close the door when she goes to the bathroom. The privacy she enjoys is the privacy we can all enjoy. Decent people do not listen to private conversations. Did anybody hear the conversations on the tape that she was instructing [Election Commissioner Virgilio] Garcillano to cheat? Come on. The issue of cheating is just being dignified to justify their plan to grab power.—**Ely Arceo, P.O. Box 31699, Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia**

* * *

Now that the President has admitted to unethical wrongdoing, it is time to do the immediate repairs on the country's sick economy. My recommendation is an immediate snap election for president and vice president.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, you're a lady of dignity. To preserve your father's name, honor and dignity, please call for immediate snap elections.—**Carlos Bernardo, 94-1052 Mahua Place Waipahu, HI 96797**

* * *

There is nothing in the tape that indicates any crime was committed (except for the taping itself). As far as I remember from reading transcripts (even the most incriminating ones), the female voice was asking for information. The inquiry was met with a possibility of making *hilot* (massage). Let us move on.—**Jose Orozco, Calamba, Laguna**

* * *

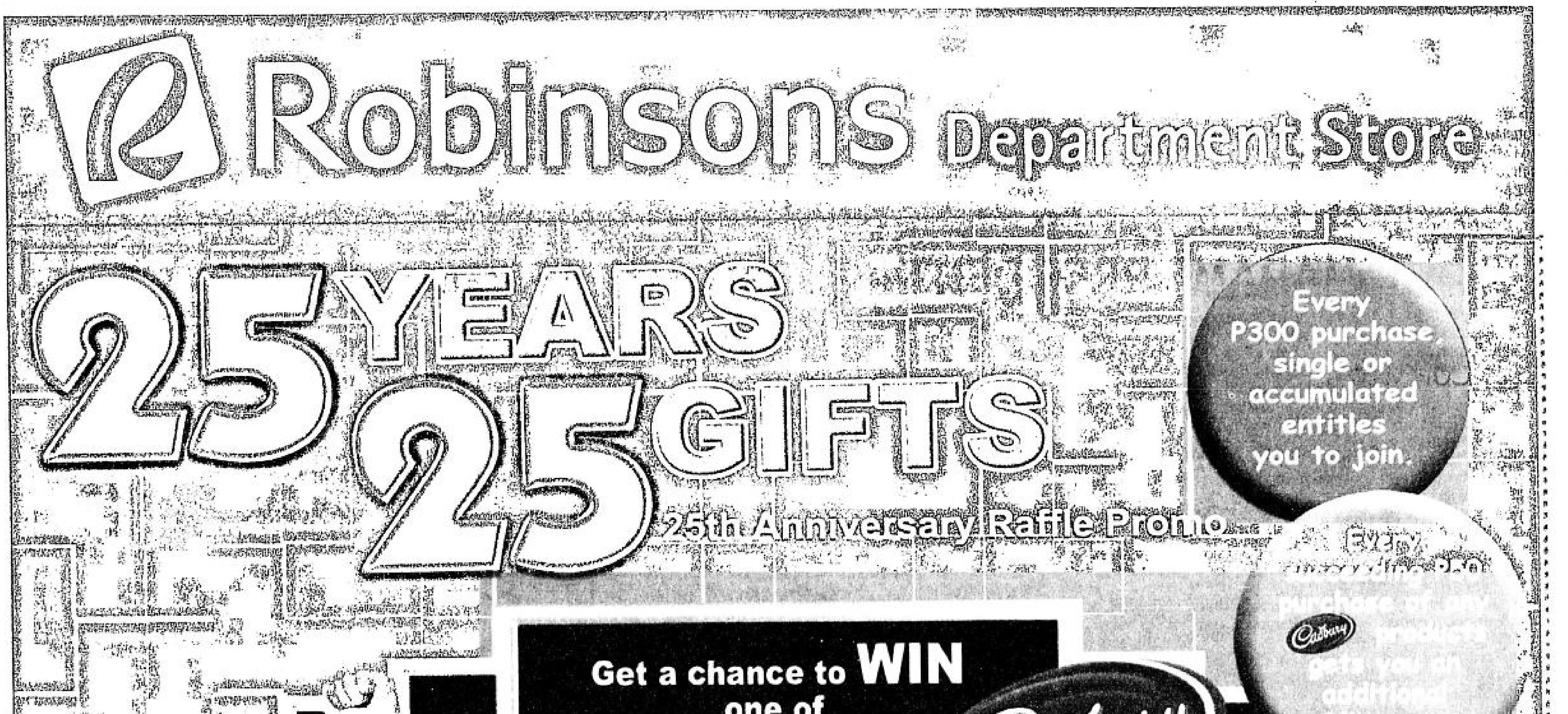
President Arroyo wants to have her cake and eat it, too. She wants the Filipino people to forgive her for her serious political crime of "rapping" our votes and she also wants to get away with it. Only in the Philippines! It was a highly calculated "apology," intended not to apologize but to divert the attention of our people from the real issue and confuse us on the gravity of the offense. We can now expect a chorus of Arroyo apologists to make some "mediocre" arguments to ensure their political survival.—**Regie Medina, 11 G. Valderrama St., Bambang, Pasig City**

* * *

Earlier, President Arroyo's silence on the "Gloriagate scam" was an admission of guilt. Now, after her "state of confusion" address, her admission of guilt is nothing but a declaration of more stomach-turning lies. Her seemingly calculated apology not only further insulted our intelligence but affirmed her arrogance and hypocrisy.—**Ruel Mesina, Goldloop Towers, Ortigas Center, Pasig City**

* * *

The President's apology was very vague. It only increased the eagerness of Filipinos to know more about the tape. If she considers herself a leader with *delicadeza* (a sense of propriety), and she is willing to prove that she is clean, she should allow a transparent investigation on this issue, and not tell the Filipinos "that is why I want to close this chapter and move on with the business of governing." Asking the Filipinos to close this controversy only makes us think that there are more behind the tape.—**Tony Parohinog, 12-22nd Place WBB, Olongapo City**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Question of the Week

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Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
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VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
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Iloilo execs throw support behind GMA in President's visit

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Embattled President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday rallied Ilonggos to her side, thanking them for their continued support of her administration amid continued calls for her resignation.

"*Salamat sa suporta ninyo* (Thank you very much for your support)," the President said in her speech at the Iloilo provincial capitol during the formal opening of Philippine-Spanish Friendship Week.

The President thanked Iloilo officials who were among her staunchest allies "for your expressions of support."

These include Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas Sr. and Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas, president of the 117-member League of Cities of the Philippines.

She also expressed her gratitude to Senate President Franklin Drilon, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Land Reform Secretary Rene Villa, all Ilonggos.

The President again thanked Ilonggos for giving her around half a million votes in last year's elections, her second biggest margin against the late actor Fernando Poe Jr., next only to Cebu, which gave her a million votes.

Tupas and Drilon in separate speeches expressed their support for her administration.

Tupas reiterated his "unqualified support" for the Arroyo administration prompting a 20-second standing ovation from hundreds of guests and spectators.

"Iloilo gave you an overwhelming mandate in the last elections and that mandate has not diminished an ounce," Tupas said as the President kept on smiling.

For his part, Drilon made an offer similar to that of Cebu officials who asked the President to transfer her office to Iloilo if she wanted to. *With a report from Raj Padilla, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Airline reaffirms mission

BONGAO, Tawi-Tawi—Domestic carrier South East Asian Airlines (Seair) reaffirmed its commitment to help increase commercial activity and tourism in Mindanao.

Since the opening of a regional hub in Zamboanga in 2002 and routes to Cotabato, Jolo and Tawi-Tawi, the airline has maintained its flight frequency in the region.

"Business in ARMM has grown by 3.6 percent this year. As the only local commercial airline offering inter-Mindanao flights, we at Seair feel that we have been a factor in the growth of commerce in the region. Our future focus is to develop tourism and international routes out of Zamboanga and Davao," said Patrick Tan, vice president for commercial affairs and director for corporate planning and business development, in a press statement.

Group of lawyers in Cebu joins call for GMA ouster

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A group of lawyers here has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign following her admission on Monday night that she talked to an election official during the canvassing in last year's elections.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Cebu City chapter also called for the creation of an independent body that would look into the "Gloria-gate Tapes" scandal.

Alex Tolentino, IBP city chapter president, yesterday told reporters that they wanted the legal process to be observed and that those officials connected in the wiretapped phone recordings should suffer the legal consequences of their acts.

He added they had not made a stand whether they favored the call for a snap election or not.

Tolentino said the IBP resolution was approved by a majority of the board of directors during a special meeting on June 29.

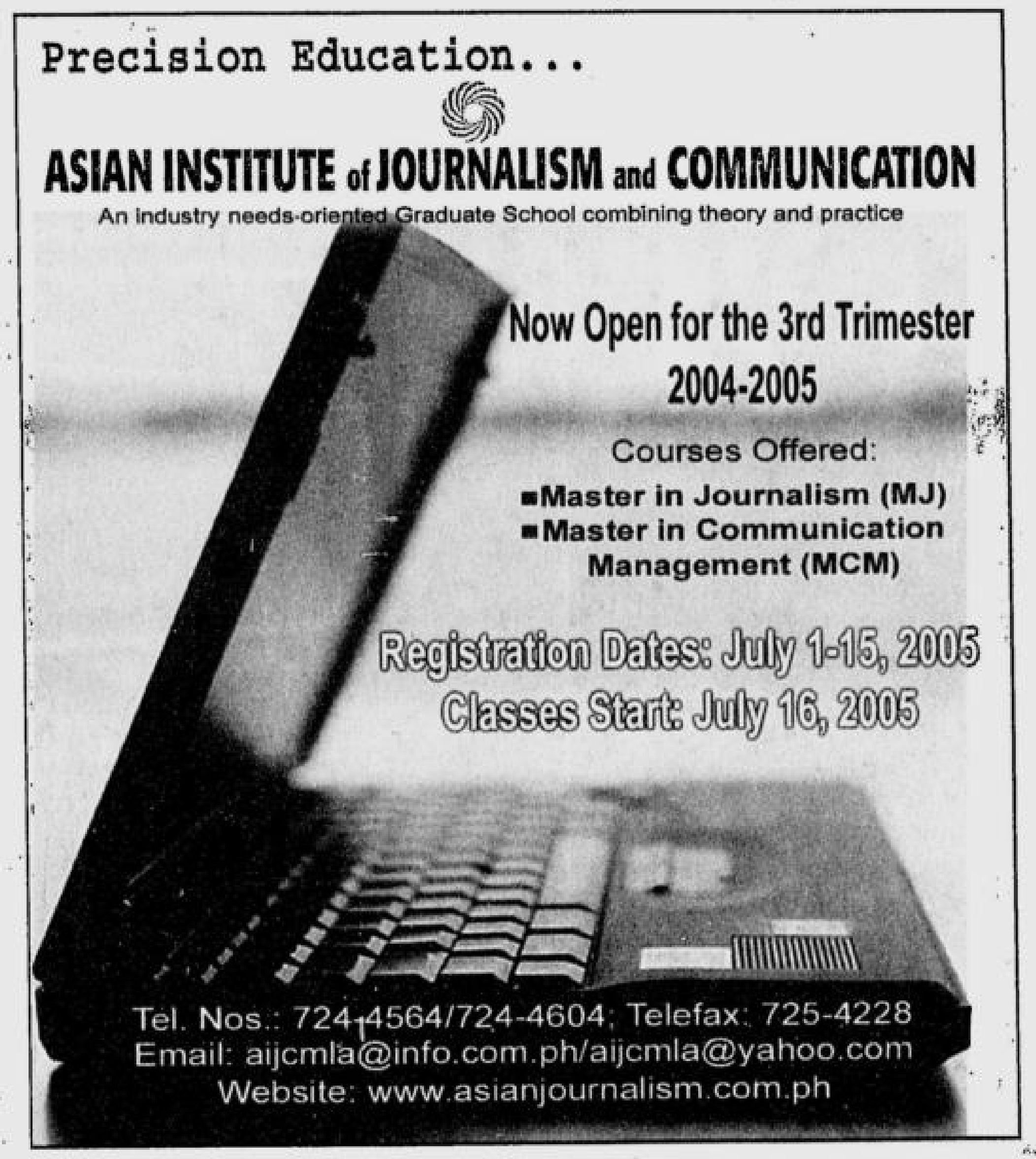
A copy of the resolution would be furnished Ms Arroyo, through Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, and the Supreme Court, House of Representatives and the Senate.

In its two-page resolution, the IBP said the scandal involving Ms Arroyo and election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano "had created a public and wide perception that the past presidential election result was rigged and that she cheated her way to the presidency."

The lawyers also said the scandal also caused "public instability" as well as "political, economic and social unrest."

It also triggered "loss of respect for the Presidency as shown by deriding jokes and mockery of President Arroyo and erosion of public faith and confidence on the moral capability and credibility of President Arroyo to govern the nation," the resolution said.

The IBP also said that with her admission, it showed that Ms Arroyo gave tacit approval to the commission of election fraud just to win the presidency.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We want to respond to your appeal. Although shaken, we want to extend to you our support. **We believe that one impediment in your housing program for the poor is Mr. Celso de los Angeles, President of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC). We urge you to remove him from office because he is not morally fit to be in government.**

- Under his management there is flagrant and brazen graft and corruption going on in NHMFC. One NHMFC official has recently been caught by the NBI receiving a bribe in connection with the release of loan for the purchase of a property for an urban poor community. (PDI June 25, 2005 A5). Many others have complained to this barefaced corrupt practice in NHMFC.
- His P8.2 Million gift to a television talent, which was nationally televised, raises questions about his lifestyle and whether he is qualified to be a civil servant.
- The Social Housing Finance Corporation has not been registered, despite your direct order last May7 and the release of P5 million from your funds for its registraion. This demonstrates his gross insubordination and incompetence in failing to implement your EO 272.

You mentioned that "nothing should stand in the ..next phase of your reform agenda." Mr. Celso de los Angeles is a hindrance to the reforms you are instituting.
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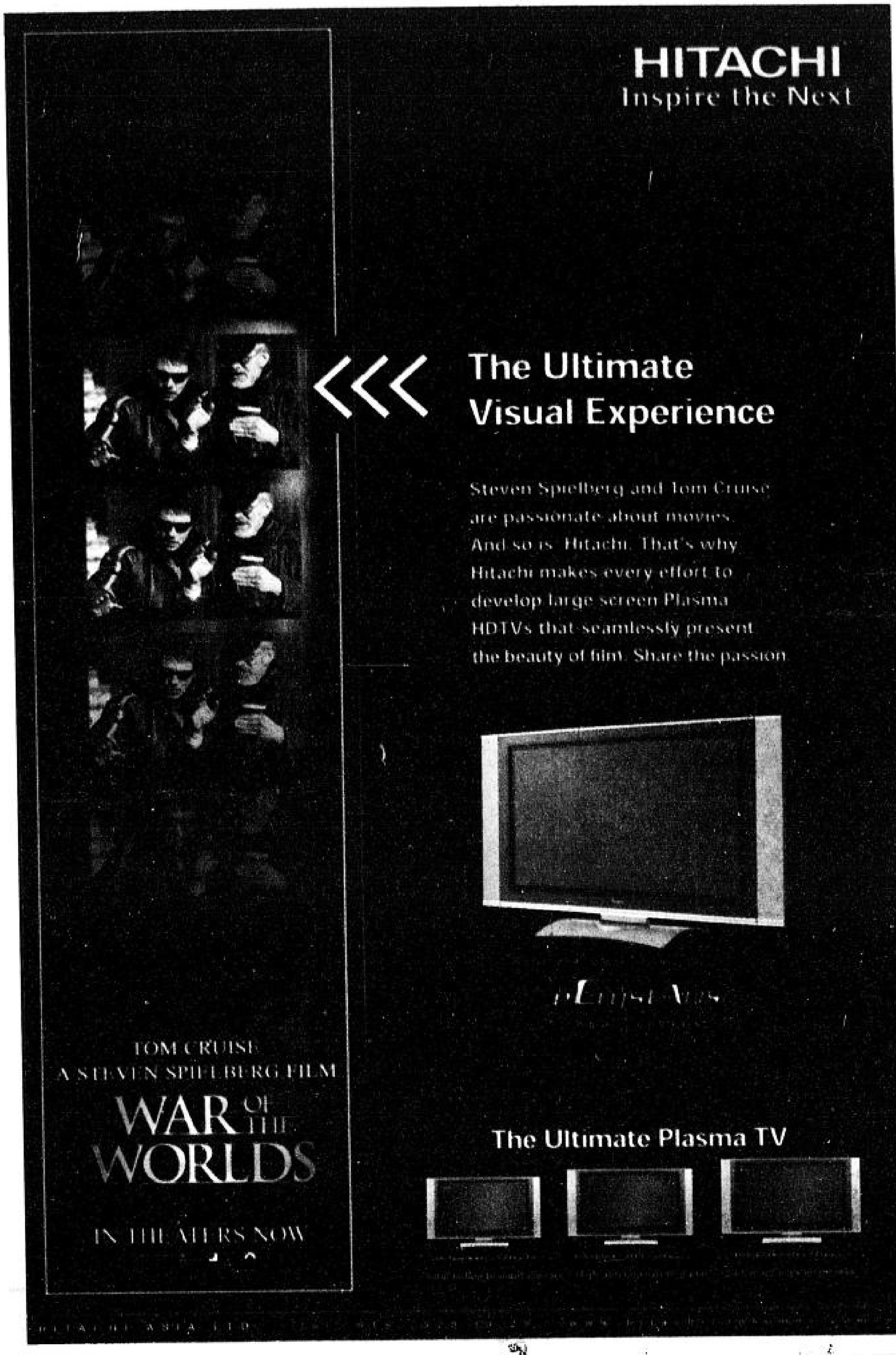
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Vizcaya gov't offers hydro plant for sale

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The provincial government on Wednesday announced it would sell the facilities of a foreign-owned hydroelectric power plant due to the owners' failure to pay taxes to the local government.

Lawyer Desiderio Perez, provincial legal officer, said the Casecnan multi-purpose irrigation and power project (CMIPP) is set to be put on public auction on July 26, in the province's effort to recover some P250.7 million in unpaid taxes incurred by the dam owners.

The CMIPP is a hydroelectric and irrigation project that was completed in 2001 under a 25-year build-operate-transfer agreement between the government and the California Energy-Casecnan Water and Energy Co. Inc. (CE-CWEC).

The structures located in Nueva Vizcaya include two impounding dams that divert water from two rivers in Nueva Vizcaya and a pair of six-meter tunnels that drive water to a power plant in Pantabangan town in Nueva Ecija, 27 km away.

But since the start of its operation in October 2001, CE-CWEC has not paid Nueva Vizcaya and Alfonso Castañeda governments the required real property taxes, computed yearly at 2 percent of the entire value of the property.

The INQUIRER tried to reach lawyer Linda Castillo, CE-CWEC vice president for corporate and legal affairs, on Thursday but she did not answer her mobile phone.

In earlier interviews, company officials, however, invoked a term in its agreement with the Department of Finance and the National Irrigation Administration that CE-CWEC is not supposed to pay taxes unless told to do so by both agencies.

They also claimed that the project was exempt from tax obligations, as part of the tax incentives granted to independent power producers by the government to attract investments to solve the power crisis in the early 1990s.

Records obtained from the provincial treasury office showed that CMIPP's tax obligation has reached P250.7 million, including P59.5 million in penalties.

The public auction was set after officials here on June 24 notified the central offices of the DOF, NIA, the Department of Energy and the Securities and Exchange Commission of the impending sale of the CMIPP property.

On June 17, the provincial government issued a warrant of levy to Joseph Sullivan, CE-CWEC president.

In a warrant of levy, a local government, as creditor of real property taxes, sets aside delinquent property and put these under the custody of the law for possible sale. Proceeds from such sale will be used to pay the unpaid taxes.

Perfecto Martinez Jr., provincial treasurer, said the pieces of CMIPP property that would be put on sale include two dam structures, the diversion tunnels and various buildings and machines located in Barangays Pelaway and Abuyo in Alfonso Castañeda town.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Joma sees talks only after GMA reign

LUCENA CITY—Self-exiled top Filipino communist Jose Maria Sison said only the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo would pave the way for the resumption of the formal peace negotiations between the National Democratic Front and the government.

"So long as it stays in power, the Arroyo regime will continue to prevent the resumption of the formal talks in the GRP-NDF peace negotiations," Sison said in an e-mailed statement from Utrecht, The Netherlands.

He said the peace talks can only move forward when the Arroyo administration is replaced by a government that is not extremely servile to the United States, that complies with The Hague Joint Agreement and other agreements and that agrees with the NDF to address the roots of the armed conflict through social, economic and political reforms.

Sison made the declaration after Speaker Jose de Venecia allegedly introduced changes in the joint communique of the NDF and members of the peace mission of the House special committee on peace, reconciliation and unity.

The peace mission—composed of Representatives Satur Ocampo, Lorenzo Tañada III and Arthur Defensor—went to Utrecht and held dialogues with the NDF peace panel headed by Luis Jalandoni to explore the resumption of formal talks between the communist insurgents and the government.

According to Sison, the two parties had constructive discussions from June 23 to 27 and were ready to sign a joint communique on the evening of June 27 upon the arrival of De Venecia.

At the bottom line of the communique, the NDF panel signified its readiness to resume formal talks with the government.

"But Speaker de Venecia torpedoed the communique. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

LIVELIHOOD BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

A man in wheelchair tries to eke out a living by selling native fans on the streets of Davao City.

Potato importing firm cleared of quarantine offenses

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—An Australian firm accused of exporting potatoes to the country without the necessary business license was cleared by the Bureau of Plant Industry of violating local quarantine laws.

In a letter on June 17, BPI Director Clarito Barron told Board Member John Kim that Shin Green Fresh is actually the trade name of Corstralia Marketing Pty. Limited.

Barron sent Kim a copy of the certification issued by Australian Trade Commissioner Dan Williams, which said Shin Green Fresh is the trade name of Corstralia, a duly licensed and registered business entity in that country.

The certification said Corstralia shares the same business address as Shin Green Fresh in New South Wales.

Kim earlier asked Gov. Borromeo Melchor to study the filing of criminal and civil charges against Shin Green Fresh and its Filipino importer, Liwayway Marketing Corp., for engaging in potato trade despite the former having no business license in Australia.

Kim, chair of the board's committee on agriculture, asked provincial officials to sue the Australian exporter after the office of air trading under Australia's Department of Commerce confirmed that the company was non-existent.

Anne Cotter, assistant customer service officer for Australia's Farm Trading Commissioner, wrote Kim that under Australian laws, only registered companies are allowed to engage in business.

BPI records showed that Liwayway imported 350 metric tons of potatoes from Shin Green Fresh last year. The importation was covered by seven import permits issued by BPI.

Kim said the imports violated local quarantine laws which require local importers to transact business only with exporting firms authorized to engage in business by their own countries.

Barron said his office conducted an investigation of the existence of Shin Green Fresh, and received a favorable answer from the Australian Trade Commission.

Despite Barron's letter, however, Kim said he was at a loss why Shin Green Fresh was used as the exporter and not Corstralia.

"The law dictates the use of only the registered company name and the use of any other name is a blatant violation," he said. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BACK TO NORMAL BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Life for former hostage Robert Tarongoy and wife Ivy Grace returns to normal, allowing them time to take walks in a beach resort in Matina, Davao City. The couple calls the resort their temporary home.

AFP vows to put down any move to establish Mindanao republic

DAVAO CITY—Will the military support an independent Mindanao Republic?

"No," said Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief Efren Abu, who was here Wednesday night along with the country's top police and military officials at the height of the political crisis facing the Arroyo administration.

"Any move of dismembering the state is against the Constitution, and we're bound to protect the Constitution," said Abu in a hastily called press briefing here Wednesday night.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte had reiterated his call for an independent Mindanao should some sectors in Manila continue their destabilization moves and finally succeed to unseat the President.

"But I have to say it very carefully," said Duterte, who was around but did not join top AFP and PNP officers in facing the media.

"It could only come into the fore if you force out the President," said the mayor who also chairs the country's antiterror task force.

"I am not speaking here on behalf of the people of Mindanao, but on my own, I will continue to oppose it. I will not bind myself to any change that will happen in Manila outside the bounds of the Constitution," he said.

Duterte's name had been floated along with MILF vice chair for political affairs Ghadzali Jaafar, and Maguindanao Datu Ibrahim Paglas among the prospective leaders in the newly-hatched movement "One-People-Mindanao" composed of groups from Muslims, Christians and civil society, according to Jun Apareche, head of the Lihok Federal Secretariat for southeastern Mindanao.

This group threatens to break away from Metro Manila should another Edsa uprising occur, he said.

Abu denied top officials are now conducting loyalty checks among members of the armed forces saying he trusted all his men and that the chain of command is still intact.

Abu said those who are trying to overthrow the government no longer have enough support. "They've retired, they're no longer within the armed forces," he said, referring to the group of retired generals demanding for the President's resignation.

Abu was here with incoming AFP Chief Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga, PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao and incoming Philippine Army chief Maj. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

But the country's top AFP and PNP officers said it was just a "coincidence" that they were here. *Germelina Lacorte, Dennis Santos, Ferdinand Zuasola, Charlie Señase, Grace Albasin, Michael Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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40 mayors of Quezon to trek to Metro for GMA

CANDELARIA, Quezon—The 40-member Quezon Mayors League (QML) were scheduled to travel to Metro Manila today in a convoy of 100 vehicles to stage a "Caravan for Peace" in support of the beleaguered administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the president of the league told newsmen here.

According to Candelaria Mayor David Emralino, QML president, the planned mass action is the initiative of the league to manifest its unwavering support to the leadership of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The President has spoken and has asked for forgiveness. It's now time to leave all the political bickering behind and move on as one nation," said Emralino, also the chair of Lakas-Quezon chapter.

He said the league had already secured a permit from Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte for a two-hour peaceful rally near the Sandiganbayan Building.

Emralino said all Quezon mayors, regardless of political affiliations, had pledged to join the caravan.

"We are all afraid that if the call for the ouster of President will succeed, a military junta will take over. That is much worse than martial law," he said.

Emralino, however, admitted that the controversial phone call made by the President was really "unethical."

"But that was not illegal, that was not cheating because the election was already finished when she made the call," he said.

The Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines and the League of Provinces of the Philippines also earlier declared their support for Ms Arroyo. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Another Filipina dies in Saudi

COTABATO CITY—The woman Overseas Filipino Worker from Maguindanao, who jumped off a two-story building in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia has died, officials of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), said yesterday.

Amy Crisostomo, Owwa-ARMM director, said Sapi Ibrahim Usman died Monday from serious head injuries she got from the fall.

She quoted reports as saying that there was no way for Usman to live any longer following her fall last week.

"In fact, when Usman was rushed to the hospital, she was declared brain dead by attending physicians," Crisostomo said.

She said that Usman, who could be a victim of illegal recruitment, was believed to be suffering from mental distress when she climbed up the building and jumped off. She landed head first on the pavement.

Crisostomo said Owwa officials have yet to meet with Sapi's relatives.

She said based on information the Owwa gathered, Sapi hails from Kabuntalan, Maguindanao and Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Marami sa mga problema sa ating ekonomiya, nakatali sa utang ng bansa. Sa ngayon, 86 percent ng kinikita ng gobyerno, napupunta sa pagbayad ng utang. Kaya kailangan ng matinding reporma ukol sa pananalapi. Bahagi nito ang ine-reporma ng VAT. Ang kikitain sa tulong nitong VAT ay gagamiting para i-balanse ang budget at pondohan ang mga mahalagang proyekto ng pamahalaan lalong lalo na ang panlaban sa kahirapan at pag-aangat sa kabuhayan ng taong-bayan.

LAHAT MAGSASAKRIPISYO, PERO AALALAYAN ANG MGA MAHIRAP

Ang VAT ay isang 'consumption tax' - - - ang pinakamalakas gumastos at bumili ng produkto at serbisyo ang magpapasan ng mas malaking VAT. Bilang alalay sa taong bayan, exempted sa VAT ang mga pangunahing produkto tulad ng bigas at sariwang gulay, karne at isda. Wala ring VAT ang tuition, libro, diyaryo at magazine. Libre rin sa VAT ang pagbili ng low-cost o socialized housing, pati na rin ang upa sa bahay na mas mababa sa P10,000 a month. Wala ring VAT ang paninda ng mga negosyanteng hindi kumikita ng higit sa P1.5 million sa bawat taon.

BABANTAYAN LABAN SA KURAKOT

Sisiguraduhin na ang kita mula sa VAT ay gagamitin sa tamang paraan. Bahagi ng koleksyon mula sa VAT ay ilalaan para sa: 1) bagong paaralan, 2) kalye at patubig para sa magsasaka, 3) health insurance para sa kapos-palad, 4) programang pangkalikasan.

Kasabay nito, patuloy rin ang 'lifestyle check' at mga programa laban sa kurakot sa pamahalaan. Gayundin, ang kampanya laban sa mga tax evaders at smugglers, sa ilalim ng R.A.T.E., o Run After Tax Evaders at R.A.T.S., o Run After The Smugglers, ay patuloy upang pangalagaan ang kaban ng bayan.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

E-VAT drives up prices

From page A1

However, power rates have significantly changed since April and computations on the effects of the e-VAT have yet to be finalized. The increase in Meralco rates is expected to be finalized on Monday.

Toll rates will go up starting today to reflect the tax, according to the operator of the South Luzon Expressway. As a result, the toll rate for cars from Alabang, Muntinlupa to the Nichols toll plaza in Pasay City will go up from P55 to P60.50.

Because electricity and petroleum products are major inputs in many industries, prices of other basic commodities and services are expected to rise.

Aside from electricity and petroleum, previously VAT-exempt products and services that are now covered by the tax include coal, natural gas and other indigenous fuel; electric cooperatives; domestic transport of passengers by air and sea; medical and legal services; cotton, cotton seeds and non-food agricultural products; and works of art, literary works and musical compositions.

Block implementation

The e-VAT also increases the corporate income tax from 32 percent to 35 percent.

Opposition congressmen yesterday asked the Supreme Court to block the implementation of the e-VAT, the centerpiece of the government's tax reform program aimed at cutting the budget deficit.

In a petition, the legislators said the court should declare the new law null and void for being unconstitutional because it gave power to Ms Arroyo to raise the VAT from 10 percent to 12 percent next year.

"The power to tax is legislative in character, and thus a legislative prerogative," the petition said. "Being legislative in nature, the power to tax may not be delegated."

But the Department of Finance yesterday said that even court petitions for an injunction would not derail e-VAT's implementation, explaining that under the law, no court can stop the collection of taxes.

Revenue gains

Ms Arroyo, who is under severe pressure from allegations of corruption and electoral fraud, signed into law last month the bill expanding the VAT, a form of sales tax, as part of her administration's revenue-raising measures.

The government has said it expected net revenue gains of P28 billion to P31 billion this year from ending VAT exemptions on several sectors based on a 70-percent collection rate.

It said additional revenues from the VAT law would rise to between P97 billion and P105 billion yearly starting 2006, after the President exercises her powers to further raise the VAT rate.

The finance department has said that 70 percent of the proceeds from the new tax measure will be used to address the deficit while 30 percent will go to budgetary support.

The government incurred a budget deficit of P67.8 billion in the first five months, well within the target of P77.8 billion for the period. The government is aiming to limit the deficit to P177 billion to P180 billion for the whole year following a deficit of P187 billion in 2004.

Local oil prices, steadily rising due to soaring international oil prices that recently hit an all-time high of $59.23 a barrel, are not expected to fully reflect the 10-percent increase brought about by the e-VAT.

Mitigating measures

This is because of mitigating measures the government is adopting such as the removal of excise taxes and the reduction of tariffs on diesel, kerosene, unleaded gasoline and LPG.

According to DOE estimates, the price of diesel will go up to P29.50 a liter upon the imposition of the e-VAT from P28.95 a liter (as of June 27).

Diesel prices would have gone up to as high as P31.85 a liter if not for the removal of the P1.63-a-liter excise tax on the product and the reduction in crude and finished product tariff from 5 percent to 3 percent, equivalent to 50 centavos a liter at the pump.

Kerosene will be sold at an average of P31.12 a liter from the June 27 price of P29.39 a liter. Mitigating the impact of the e-VAT on kerosene is the removal of the 60-centavos-a-liter excise tax and the tariff reduction, which is also equivalent to 50 centavos a liter.

Starting today, unleaded gasoline will be sold at an average price of P33.03 a liter, P2.60 higher than the June 27 price of P30.43 a liter. The tariff reduction softened the e-VAT impact on unleaded and regular gasoline by 40 centavos.

The price of regular gasoline will rise to P31.45 a liter from the June 27 pump price of P29.44. While the product will still be slapped with an excise tax of P4.35 a liter, this is still lower than the pre-e-VAT excise tax of P4.80 a liter.

Bunker fuel, which is usually used for power generation, will be retailed at P19.90 a liter, up by P1.22 from P18.68 a liter as of June 27. The e-VAT impact is softened by the removal of the 30-centavos-a-liter excise tax on the product as well as the tariff reduction, which will yield a price reduction of 29 centavos a liter.

Tariff slash

Prices of LPG will shoot up to P416.87 per 11-kg cylinder from P387 per cylinder. The tariff slash will result in a price cut of P8.03 per tank. LPG also continues to be exempted from the excise tax.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said at a briefing yesterday that, while fuel prices would predictably be higher upon the imposition of the e-VAT, post-VAT prices were still lower than expected due to the mitigating measures that the government put in place, including the excise tax removal for some products and the tariff cut.

He said the DOE and other government agencies were cognizant of the fact that the new tax would be slapped at a time of high world oil prices.

Reasonable

The Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association (Ippca) said the DOE price estimates were fairly "reasonable," although actual diesel prices could go higher than projected.

"The final increase may be 5-8 percent of the current pump price. For diesel, (actual prices) will be a bit higher (than the DOE estimates), but it will not be more than 5 percent of the current price," Ippca chair Fernando Martinez said.

Outdated

"Yes, [the DOE figures are] accurate. But some assumptions, like the base price, are outdated," he pointed out.

Total (Philippines) Corp. president and managing director Jeff Attwood said the DOE computations, while fairly accurate, "do not reflect the recovery of duties and specific taxes in current inventory that have already been paid, as well as the actual cost, today of petroleum products in the international market."

The company still had to sell fuel that were purchased with the excise taxes and at a tariff of 5 percent. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Armand N. Nocum*

Mike A flies to HK as Pidal case resurrected in Senate

From page A1

the First Gentleman," he said.

'Jueteng' hearing

The elder Arroyo's Airbus 330 flight departed an hour after a Senate investigation on jueteng adjourned for the day.

Without a new witness, the hearing reexamined the "Jose Pidal" signature of Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo who claimed he, and not his brother, the First Gentleman, owned P270 million in secret bank accounts from alleged illicit operations.

The bank accounts were exposed by opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson two years ago, but Senate investigations of what then was described as a money laundering project were inconclusive.

Accused of lying

Dr. Mely Sorra, chief of the Questioned Documents Division of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory, admitted that Iggy Arroyo did not sign specimen signatures in her presence and that her findings that the signatures on a Jose Pidal check and Iggy's signatures matched were "not conclusive."

The Jose Pidal case was discussed as a "side issue" in the jueteng inquiry after confessed bagwoman Sandra Cam earlier testified that Iggy Arroyo had spent weeks practicing the signature of his brother.

Opposition Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Sergio Osmeña III accused Sorra of lying when she contradicted her statement during the Senate investigations two years ago.

In the Senate hearing on Feb. 5, 2004, Sorra testified that she witnessed Iggy Arroyo signing two sets of specimens on Sept. 1, 2003 when he came to the PNP Crime Lab.

Not conclusive

Sorra admitted yesterday that Iggy Arroyo did not sign the specimen signatures in her presence but these were only submitted to her division by his lawyer, Antonio Zulueta.

She said Iggy Arroyo signed in her presence one set of signatures, dubbed the standard signatures, which senators had insisted were different from the specimen. The senators reiterated their belief that the specimen signatures were signed by Mike Arroyo who they believe to be the real Jose Pidal.

Sorra replied in the negative when Enrile asked him if she could ascertain that the specimen signatures were signed by Iggy Arroyo.

She conceded that her certification used by Iggy Arroyo's lawyer to prove his client was Pidal during the Senate investigation was "not conclusive."

"I gave a qualified opinion. It's not conclusive," Sorra said.

Two years ago, Zulueta said the findings of Sorra "conclusively proved" that Iggy Arroyo was Jose Pidal. He quoted Sorra's report as saying: "There's strong indication that the questioned signature and the standard handwriting specimen signatures Jose Pidal are written by one and the same person."

"My God! You're not telling us the truth," Enrile said when Sorra finally admitted Iggy signed only one set of signatures in her presence and the other set was merely submitted by Iggy's lawyer.

Cam had told the jueteng probe that Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda, then provincial police director of Bicol, had bragged to her that the Arroyo administration could have fallen if he did not certify the Jose Pidal signatures of Iggy Arroyo.

Mosqueda denial

She said Mosqueda told her that when he was director of the PNP Crime Lab, Iggy Arroyo spent weeks practicing the signature.

Mosqueda has denied this, saying the practicing session "never happened" and branded Cam a notorious character.

Lacson said he was hoping the Senate blue ribbon committee would resume its Jose Pidal investigation. He said the case was stonewalled by Sen. Joker Arroyo's committee.

Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, an administration senator and former Pampanga governor, steered the probe to the Pidal issue right after Cam said Pampanga jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda tried to bribe her on Wednesday night to recant her testimony against Iggy and Mikey Arroyo.

Lapid then complained to reporters that the jueteng hearing was being diverted to the Pidal issue because there were not enough administration senators to object, to the Jose Pidal discussion.

Death threats

During the hearing, Archbishop Oscar Cruz and Cam said they had received death threats and substantial bribes to keep silent. Aside from a letter containing a live bullet, Cruz presented to the committee the P10-million check which he said had come from a relative of a person closely connected with the First Gentleman.

Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the investigation, said the Senate would go after those attempting to stop the hearing.

Yap first to leave GMA Cabinet; Palace denies revamp

From page A1

that he had not been warned about the impending case.

Everybody resign

Media reports had described Yap as a sacrificial lamb in the government's drive to polish its image in the midst of controversies hounding Ms Arroyo and her family.

Administration Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. yesterday called on all members of the Cabinet and heads of major government agencies to follow Yap's example.

Magsaysay said the resignation of all such officials was necessary to give the President the leeway to undertake the reforms she promised after she admitted the impropriety of talking with an election official during the canvassing of votes in 2004.

"I urge all Cabinet members and heads of major agencies to submit their courtesy resignations to purge and overhaul the entire government bureaucracy," Magsaysay said. "The time is now," he added.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson also called on the members of the Cabinet to resign.

"I don't know his (Yap's) personal reason for resigning but I think the other members of the Cabinet, if they are having difficulties defending the President because of the cheating in the last election, if there is any decency left in them, they should also resign," Lacson said.

Rep. Joey Salceda, one of the President's top economic advisers, told a local radio station there would be many major announcements over the next few days and "a Cabinet revamp is among them."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, however, downplayed speculation of a Cabinet reshuffle, which was widely reported in the news on Thursday.

"The rumors are exaggerated," Bunye told AFP.

Links to Mike

A scion of a wealthy family, Yap said he had been considering resigning the past two weeks. The clincher came when he received reports that he would be among those kicked out of the Cabinet because of his ties with First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

"This is most unfair," said Yap. "I do not owe my appointment to any patronage or accommodation."

Before he joined the government, Yap said he had never met the President's husband, who has been implicated in illegal gambling payoffs.

Yap maintained that he did not resign to jump the gun on a reported looming Cabinet revamp that would affect those affiliated with the First Gentleman.

Insidious

"Considering these insidious machinations, allegations that I have links to the First Gentleman ... I asked myself, 'What's next? Are we going to go on a week to week, issue by issue thing?'" Yap said.

"It was becoming tiring. It was not right anymore. Instead of talking about agricultural issues, everything boils down to politics, personalities. It does not help anyone," he said.

The agriculture chief tendered his resignation Wednesday night after a long talk with the President. Ms Arroyo accepted his resignation but agreed that he would remain until a replacement had been appointed.

Yap expressed confidence that his department would reach its target 3.8 to 4 percent growth in the agriculture sector by yearend. He said the establishment of another 40 "*huwarang palengke*" (model markets) was also in the works.

Yap said he would devote his time to clearing his family's name in the tax evasion case when he leaves the DA.

Beyond reproach

Malacañang said the secretary's resignation had nothing to do with the current political turmoil.

Bunye said Yap's resignation to clear himself of tax evasion charges was "commendable." He said Yap's performance as administrator of the National Food Authority and, recently, as agriculture secretary was "beyond reproach."

The President's adviser on political affairs, Gabriel Claudio, said he was unaware of any Cabinet reorganization but added that it was "in the realm of the possible."

"It's always the prerogative of the President," Claudio said. "The possibility becomes more relevant in light of the reforms of the President which she has declared she wants to pursue with determination.'"

Constitutional convention

Bunye also denied reports attributed to Salceda that the President planned to convene a constitutional convention in the next 20 days.

"There is no such plan," Bunye said in a radio interview.

He dismissed reports that Vicky Garchitorena had resigned as director of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Bunye noted reports suggesting that Garchitorena's supposed resignation reflected the position of Ayala Corp. on the Arroyo administration.

"What we can say is that based on the statements of Ayala Corp., through Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, the President still has the support of the business sector," he said.

Focus on work

Also yesterday, the general manager of the Laguna Lake Development Authority said he would rather focus on his work than be bothered by reports saying he would soon be shown the door.

"There are so many problems about the environment. I would rather concentrate on my work," Ed Manda said in a phone interview.

Manda, who is known to be very close to Mike Arroyo, served as general manager of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport before he was appointed LLDA head early this year. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Norman Bordadora, Juliet Labog-Javellana and AFP*

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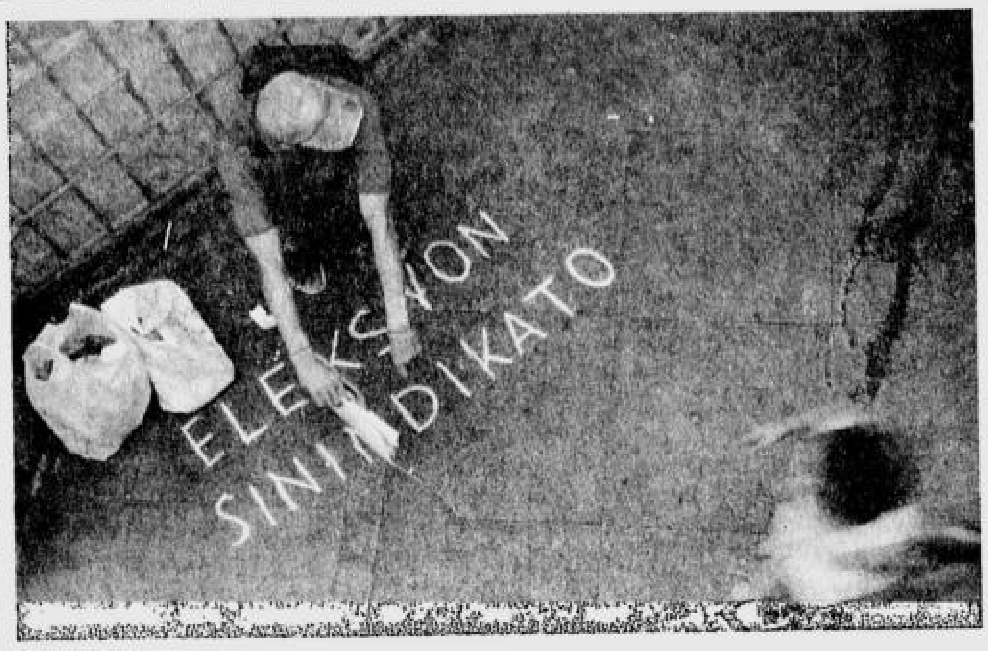


SIDEWALK PROTEST REM ZAMORA

Not on a poster, but scribbled on the sidewalk, a protester expresses his sentiments at Plaza Miranda, one of several venues where opposition groups have been staging almost daily antigovernment demonstrations.

Muntinlupa City builds own baywalk

By Jocelyn R. Uy

BAYWALK in Muntinlupa City?

In four months, a version of Manila's famous tourist attraction, the Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard, will cover the stretch along the coast of Laguna de Bay in Barangay Bayanan, Muntinlupa City.

City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi said the city acquired three hectares in the barangay last year for the project. In the next two years, he said they would purchase an additional 1.5 hectares for the strip.

He also added that the city's proposed amusement park was not a duplicate of Manila City Mayor Lito Atienza's Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard in Manila, which was a part of his Buhayin Ang Maynila urban renewal program.

"The Bayanan Baywalk had been conceptualized a long time ago, but there were some delays," he said.

The Bayanan Baywalk would not just be an amusement area, but would also serve as a venue for the services it would extend to its residents, the mayor said.

A four-story school building with 42 classrooms will rise in the area, as well as a recreation center for senior citizens.

Near the Baywalk, a renewal home for drug dependents, a daycare center and a health center will also be built.

The Bayanan Barangay Hall would be repaired, he added.

For everyone

The city would have to allot P200 million for the project, the mayor said. However, maintenance and repair costs for the barangay hall would have to be subsidized by the barangay.

The Bayanan Baywalk would be a center for leisure not only for Barangay Bayanan, but also for residents of Muntinlupa and neighboring cities.

Barangay Bayanan is near the National Highway and a few kilometers away from the South Super Highway and the Alabang area.

The Baywalk would also help boost the city's economy as portions of the park would be reserved for outdoor cafés and food kiosks.

Fresnedi said that the Laguna Lake Development Authority was also planning to create a boat club once work on the Baywalk is done.

Excavation for the stone seawall had begun last week, he said.

To prevent flooding in the area during heavy rains, it would have to be elevated and packed with mounds of land.

"In four months time, the Baywalk would be finished," the mayor assured Muntinlupa residents.

Construction of the buildings begins next year.

Unlucky Wednesday for Marikina commuters

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HIGHWAY robbers preying on passengers of public transport vehicles struck in four separate incidents in Marikina City the other day in just a span of 12 hours.

Two suspected robbers ended up being mobbed by bystanders.

One of them was later shot dead by a responding policeman, who claimed the suspect had tried to grab his service firearm.

The dead suspect was identified as a certain Dondon. Police managed to arrest his companion Jaycee Ignor, 28, said city police chief Manuel Gaerlan.

The two boarded an FX taxi bound for Cubao the other afternoon. But when the vehicle was cruising on Marcos Highway about 4 p.m. Wednesday, the armed pair announced a holdup.

Three passengers of the taxi had surrendered their cell phones to the two suspects.

"We ordered the driver to just proceed. But he stopped his vehicle, got off and started yelling for help," Ignor said.

Chase

The two panicked and tried to run away with the loot. But bystanders gave chase and ganged up on the two.

Responding policemen arrived minutes later to find the two in the hands of irate bystanders.

But while PO2 Nelson Arribay of the Barangka Police Community Precinct was about to handcuff Dondon, the suspect allegedly tried to grab the policeman's firearm, according to the police report.

Arribay and the suspect wrestled for the gun until the firearm went off, hitting Dondon, police added.

But Ignor said Dondon was only trying to push the gun away from him, apparently afraid that Arribay would kill him.

"Dondon just pushed the gun away, but the policeman probably thought he was trying to grab the gun," Ignor said.

The gun went off, hitting Dondon. Wounded, the suspect again tried to steer the gun away from him.

Thinking that Dondon was putting up a fight, police shot the suspect twice, Ignor claimed.

Policemen brought Dondon to the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center, but he died before reaching the hospital.

Ignor said he arrived in Metro Manila from Camarines Norte only two months ago.

He said Dondon, whom he met in Manila a few weeks ago, had lured him into preying on passengers of jeepneys and taxis.

New venue

They had been operating in Quezon City for several days when they decided to go to Marikina City the other afternoon.

The incident was just one of the four highway robberies in the city that Wednesday, according to police records.

Hours earlier, two robbers ran off with the cell phones of jeepney passengers on J.P. Rizal Street in Barangay Concepcion Uno at about 10:30 a.m.

Police said one of the victims identified Ignor as one of two men who held him up. Ignor, however, denied the accusation.

In the afternoon, also on J.P. Rizal Street in Barangay Malanday, five robbers took off with the cell phones of passengers of another FX taxi.

In the evening, cab driver Joel Alcones, 38, was the victim of two robbers who had posed as passengers.

Alcones was stabbed several times when he tried to fight off the robbers.

PO3 Omar Sarahan, who saw the bloodied victim escape from his attackers, brought Alcones to the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center for treatment.

Ex-dad denies brawl story; WPD officer sticks to arrest version

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A FORMER Manila councilor accused of engaging in a brawl with a businessman in a Manila restaurant the other night described the allegations against him as "politically motivated."

Chiqui Ocampo, former councilor of the city's fifth district, denied the earlier statement of a Western Police District official that he had beaten up businessman Roland Sanchez.

"These people just want to ruin my family's good name by saying untrue and exaggerated things about me," Ocampo said in an interview.

Ocampo's father is former Manila Rep. Pablo Ocampo. Manila's sixth district Rep. Sandy Ocampo is his sister.

Ocampo recounted that he was eating at the Manileño restaurant in Malate on Tuesday night when Sanchez and a certain Roger came up to him in a drunken state.

"Sanchez was pointing his finger at me and accused me of not paying my debts," he said. The former councilor pointed to two wounds on his face, which he said had been inflicted by Sanchez.

Ocampo said he retaliated when Sanchez and his companion began attacking him.

"Then, out of nowhere, WPD Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling and another policeman showed up and tried to pacify everyone," he said.

Ocampo added that Yanquiling then asked them if they wanted to file complaints at the nearby police station.

"I was not arrested, as Yanquiling alleged," he said angrily.

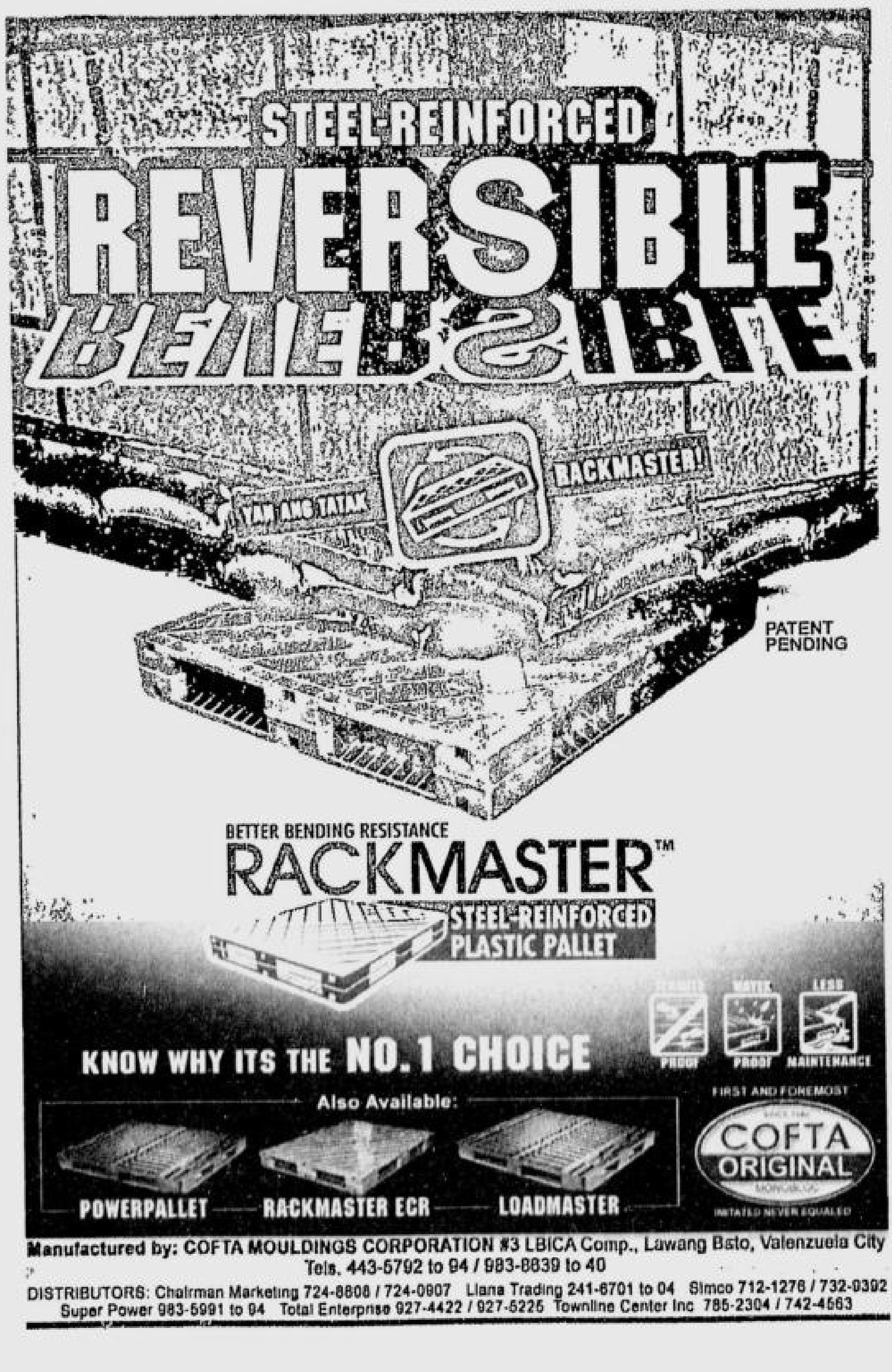
Ocampo also denied co-owning the Gordon Bleu nightclub with Sanchez, saying that the establishment belonged to his friend Benny Wong.

"I do not know Sanchez that well," he stressed, adding that he is planning to file charges against the businessman.

Ocampo also said he is considering filing charges against Yanquiling at the National Police Commission.

Yanquiling, however, maintained that he had witnessed the fight.

"We were the ones who arrested them," Yanquiling said in a phone interview, adding that he overheard the argument because he was just a few tables away.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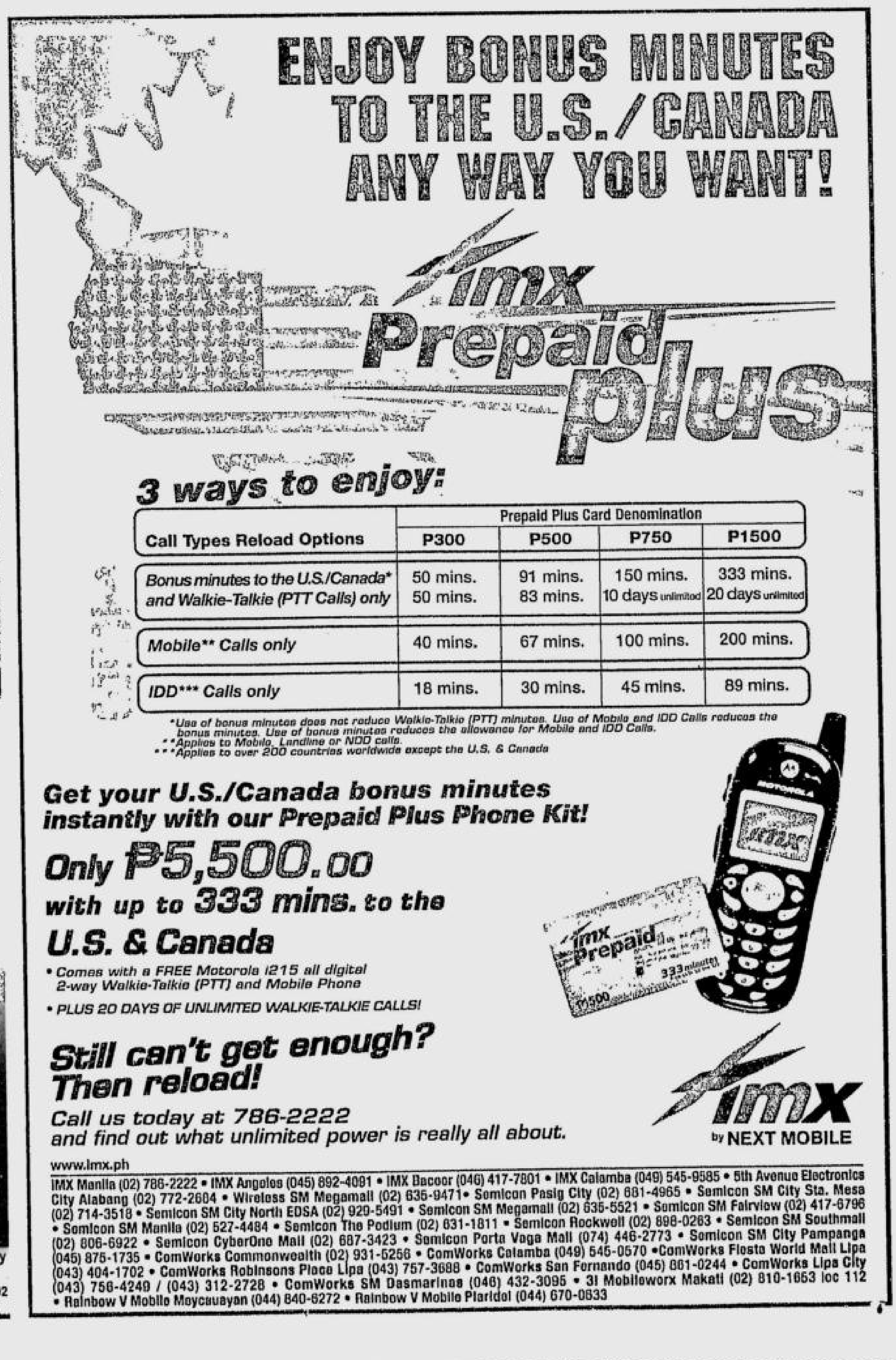
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Ex-UP profs found guilty of graft

POSADAS

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN sentenced to 17 years imprisonment early this week two former University of the Philippines officials after finding them guilty of graft and unethical conduct.

Found "guilty beyond reasonable doubt" of violating Section 3(e) of Republic Act No. 3019 (Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act) and Section 7(b) of RA 6713 (Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees) were former UP Diliman Chancellor and faculty member Roger Posadas, and Vice-Chancellor and Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Chancellor Rolando Dayco.

The 23-page decision, penned by Fourth Division Associate Justice Jose Hernandez, also "perpetually disqualified" Posadas and Dayco from holding public office. The accused were also directed to "jointly and severally indemnify" the government in the amount of P336,000.

Other members of the fourth division, Justices Gregory Ong, chair, and Rodolfo Ponferrada, concurred with Hernandez's decision.

Posadas and Dayco were charged before the Office of the Ombudsman by UP general-counsel Carmelita Yadao-Guno on behalf of the university. Finding probable cause, the Ombudsman submitted the cases to the Sandiganbayan.

Court records showed that on or about Nov. 7, 1995, Dayco was appointed OIC chancellor by Posadas, who was to go on leave. Upon his appointment, Dayco selected Posadas project director of Institutionalization of the Management of Technology at the Technology Management Center of the Office of the Chancellor in UP Diliman.

For the 12-month project, Posadas received a monthly salary of P30,000, while continuing to receive his salary as chancellor and faculty member. It was alleged that both officials knew Dayco could not make the appointment as he was only the OIC.

The records further showed that Posadas also engaged in unauthorized private practice when Dayco appointed him as consultant of the project for an additional P100,000 consultancy fee.

The INQUIRER tried, but failed to get a reaction from Posadas and Dayco.

In its decision, the antigraft court said, "There is evidence... to support the finding that there is... bad faith on the part of both accused. Being the highest officials of UP Diliman, they knew very well the limitations of Dayco's authority as OIC chancellor."

The court noted, "Posadas' authority to appoint directors and consultants is merely a delegated authority to the chancellor, which he used to occupy during the material dates alleged in the information.

"This authority was delegated to him by the Board of Regents of the UP System. Being a delegated authority, he could not validly delegate it to the accused, Dayco," the court said.

The court dismissed the contention of Posadas and Dayco that their acts were not disadvantageous to the government since the pay they received did not come from the government but from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), a foreign funding agency.

The court said while it was true that funding for the project originally came from the CIDA, the money was received by the UP and, thus, was in its custody and control. From then onwards, "they ceased to be private funds."

As for Posadas' engaging in unauthorized private practice, the court said, "There is nothing in the records to show that he had prior permission to engage in the private practice of his profession."

It added, "Dayco, as OIC, did not possess the power to appoint employees, including Posadas."

On the charge that Posadas and Dayco conspired to cause undue injury to the government, the court said, "Without Dayco's (appointment of) Posadas, the latter could not have... occupied said positions and, more importantly, could not have... obtained compensations for both positions.

"Worse, Dayco did not have the power to make Posadas' twin appointments," the court added.

Cube signs to mark jeep, bus stands

By Tarra V. Quismundo

COMMUTERS have to make sure they can easily recognize the letters of the alphabet as they would soon need the skill to know where to get on and off public transport.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is finalizing a design for innovative markers for loading and unloading points that will soon be distributed around the metropolis.

Under this scheme, commuters taking the bus will have to look for "B" markers, while those going by jeepney will have to stand at points marked "J."

Ramon Ona, who heads the Traffic Engineering Center of the MMDA Traffic Operations Center, said Chair Bayani Fernando was still choosing the color for the cube-type signs. But he said, "We are now developing the final design of the signposts."

As initially designed, a signpost would be topped by a lantern-type cube resembling a giant letter block. Four sides of the cube would be marked with a huge "B" for a bus stop, or a "J" for a jeepney stop.

In the evening, the cube would be lit like a lamppost. The four-meter-high sign was expected to be visible even from the opposite lane of a major thoroughfare like Edsa.

"Below the lantern, we would put a sign that would indicate, for instance, the destinations of buses that would stop there," said Ona.

"So even at night, it would be easy for commuters to see where to wait for their ride," he added.

The engineer said Fernando had still to choose from two designs. In one design, the cube was white and the letter in "MMDA blue." The colors are reversed in the other design.

The designs are displayed in front of the MMDA office on Edsa, marking bus stops on either side of the Orense Street corner.

Ona said there was no time table for putting up the signs, but they would be seen on seven major roads in Metro Manila.

Apart from Edsa and C-5 Road, the signs would be visible on R-10 Road in Tondo, Manila; MacArthur Highway in Valenzuela; and Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon Avenue and Marcos Highway in Quezon City.

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TENNIS: Wimbledon—Day 10 Highlights; 8 a.m. (r- 6 p.m.); Ladies Singles Semifinals; 12:30 p.m. (r); Men's Singles Semifinals; 7 p.m.; STAR Sports—It's down to the final four at the grass courts of the All-England Club.
BASEBALL: MLB; 9 a.m. (r-9:30 p.m.); ESPN.

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POC expels BAP

By Musong R. Castillo

SAYING IT was a golden opportunity for reforms, the local Olympic body yesterday expelled the Basketball Association of the Philippines through a vote by 33 National Sports Associations.

"I'm never happy with something like this," said Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco after the BAP's final-minute appeal for reinstatement by new president Joey Lina was junked by the General Assembly.

"This is a golden opportunity (for the POC) to reform basketball," said Robert Aventajado, the POC chair who conducted the roll call for the votes that led to the landmark decision after the more than three-hour meeting.

Only the cycling and baseball NSAs voted against while badminton, headed by former first lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos, abstained.

Archery and triathlon were absent and did not vote.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Basketball Association will call an emergency board meeting next week to decide on the fate of the league's memorandum of agreement with the BAP. The MOA was forged to strengthen the national team in elite tournaments abroad by using the crack players of the pro league.

"We have to at least coordinate with somebody to keep the program of the national team going," said Encarnado.

"This is a serious concern for the league and should be taken up immediately," he added.

Encarnado declined to comment on the BAP's demise in his capacity as interim president of the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. (PBFI).

"It's not proper to comment on the status of the BAP. Anyway, I wouldn't be here for long because I'm going to turn over the leadership of the PBFI once the group elects its new set of officers," said Encarnado.

Lina, the former interior and local governments secretary who was elected new BAP president three weeks ago, delivered a lengthy speech to appeal for the lifting of his association's suspension.

"Our appeal fell on deaf ears," Lina later said. "I tried my best to save the day for the BAP, which has been part of the country's history.

"I think I made a good case. It seems that the other POC members cannot segregate some (BAP) personalities from the institution," Lina added.

The former senator admitted during his speech that the "BAP was mismanaged by my sec-gen," referring to Graham Lim, who is also facing deportation charges from the Bureau of Immigration.

"For the mistakes of some, the entire institution is banished from the POC."

"He (Lina) has some heavy baggage (in the BAP) that are hard to carry," said weightlifting president and Bacolod representative Monico Puentevella.

Cojuangco said that Fiba-International will be furnished a copy of the BAP expulsion later yesterday with Fiba-Asia also to receive a copy.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. will go straight to seeking recognition from the Fiba with Aventajado showing copies of resolutions coming from four of basketball's stakeholders—the NCAA, UAAP, Small Basketeers of the Philippines and the Philippine Basketball League.

Golf's Benny Gopez, cycling sec-gen Mar Mendoza, wrestling's Vincent Piccio and Hector Navasero of baseball was for reinstating the BAP with Mendoza even moving that the body just extend the BAP suspension.

But Gopez and Piccio later on voted for expulsion, which came just four days before the Southeast Asian Basketball Association championships unwraps in Kuala Lumpur with the Philippines seeking a fourth straight title.

Lina, who led an infusion of fresh, respectable faces in the BAP hierarchy, said that the BAP would still send a team to the Seaba.

Cojuangco refused to comment on the BAP's Seaba stint and said: "We will just let the Fiba act on it."

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Mantawi dribblers stretch victory run

ILOILO CITY—Hapee/Dewfoam-backed Mantawi (Mandaue) Sparkling Nights rode on a strong second half to turn back the Iloilo Warriors, 85-77, Wednesday night and solidify their Southern Conference leadership in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the USA gym here.

Ronald Capati unloaded 16 of his 28 points in the last 20 minutes to give the Sparkling Nights their third straight victory in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Cebu Pacific, Spring Cooking Oil, Accel, Molten, Far Eastern Insurance, Nature's Spring, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz Solutions Provider, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Ping Ping Lechon, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

The 6-foot-5 Capati, who also pulled down 14 rebounds and had four steals, sparked Mantawi's comeback from a 17-point deficit late in the first half.

Then Aries Gloria and Ardy Larong took over from Capati and led a 15-2 run that shoved the Nights ahead for the first time, 57-55, in the third quarter.

Eduardo Allado Jr. carded 25 points to pace the Warriors of IBL president Robert Uy and strong supporter Gov. Niel Tupas. However, this did not help as the Warriors, who shot 51 percent from the field while limiting Mantawi to 22 percent in the first half, lost for the first time in five games.

"*Masyado silang nanggigil noong* first half," said Mantawi coach Jun Noel of his boys. "But they came back and Ron (Capati) was the key."

Defending champion Tribu Sugbu goes for its fifth victory in six outings today when it faces the Baguio Lions at 6 p.m. at the UB gym in Baguio City.

The Scores:

MANTAWI 85—Capati 28, Gloria 14, Tundag 12, Larong 8, Huelar 6, Moreno 5, France 4, Bajenting 3, Carretas 3, Ignacio 1, Antiporda 1, Sereno 0.

ILOILO 77—Allado 25, Senierez 17, Sencil 10, Manuel 9, Leonida 6, Olarte 5, Balgos 3, Poral 2, Pisuena 0, Sina-on, Baclao 0, Arceno 0, Penesa 0, Abaring 0.

Quarters: 13-21, 33-46, 60-59, 85-77.

SPORTSWATCH

Rallycross series kicks off inside Clark

THE FIRST leg of the Let's Go Racing Rallysprint/Rallycross Championship Series kicks off July 3 at the Best Buy Duty Free Shop parking lot inside Clark Ecozone in Pampanga. Last year's national rallycross champion Alex Perez is expected to join the event to defend his title. Also expected to see action are 10-time National Rally champion Vip Isada, Robbie Hermoso, Danny Santiago, Jay Navarro, Sam Santiago, Dindo de Jesus, Kenneth Dominado, Art Guevara, June Diaz, Ken Diaz, and other rallysprint/rallycross enthusiasts who will compete in the Arrive & Drive category. The event is organized by Roadwise Motoring Foundation in partnership with 103.5 K-Lite FM, Automobile Association of the Philippines, Auto Rally Club of the Philippines and Clark Development Corp. For inquiries, call 372-7374.

Ladra tops first leg of Mindanao cycling

DAPITAN CITY—Hilario Ladra topped the first leg of the 3rd Mike Keys Mindanao Cycling Classic which started in Ozamiz City and ended in front of the municipal city hall here yesterday. Ladra, a veteran rider from Davao City clocked three hours, 24 minutes and 12 seconds for the 126.3-km race organized by Mike Keys, a cycling aficionado and a missionary from Arizona, USA, who's married to a Filipina. Giovannie Delica of Cebu City clinched second place with a time of 3:24.07 over fellow Cebuano Gregorio Cabatu Jr., Ginoo Kennedy of Davao City and Robert Villaber. Mayor Reynaldo Parohinog of Ozamiz City fired the starting gun of the 3-day race which offers a total of P100,000 prize money to the winners. Today's second stage will start here in Dapitan going back to Ozamiz City with Dapitan City Mayor Dominador Jalosjos Jr., who hosted the race entourage yesterday, firing the starting gun.

Pasay 4-cock derby features 60 fights

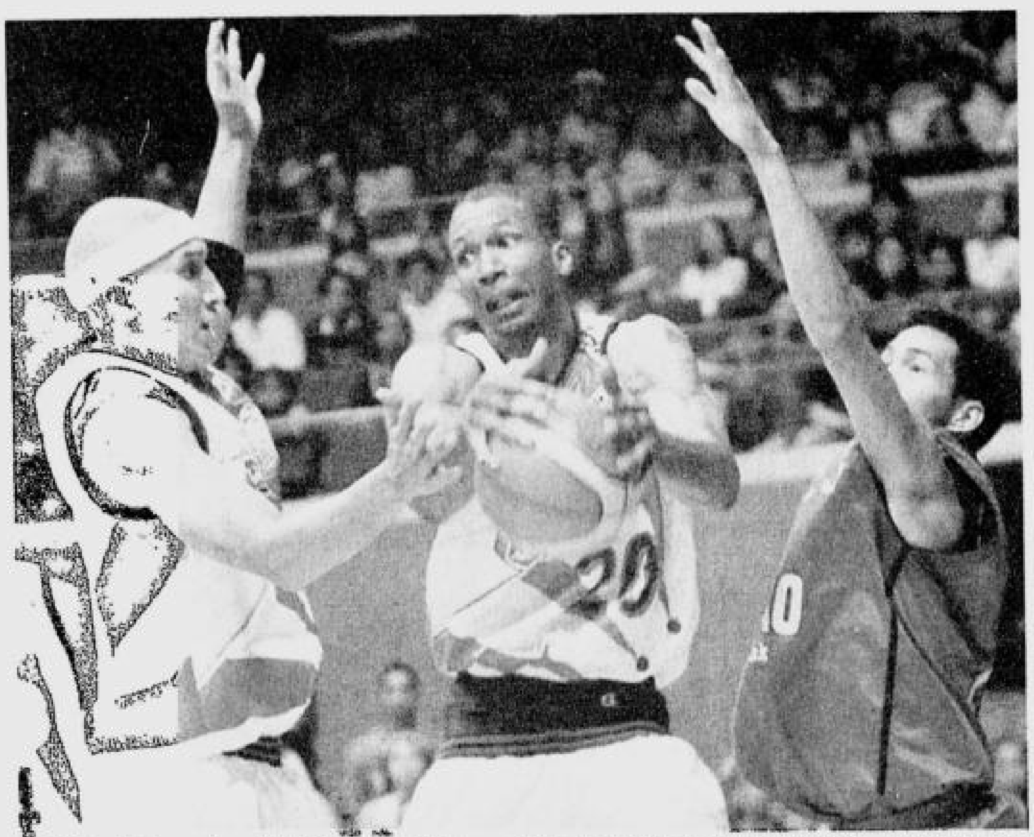
MORE than 60 exciting fights are scheduled in another bigtime 4-cock derby today at the fully air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Derby host is Lito Roque of Malabon, a regular derbyist around Metro Manila and nearby provinces. Among those invited are Pepito Ngo, Tony Lasala, FTE Happy Gamefarm, Gerald Go of Sta. Ana Cockpit, Boy Javier, Capt. Emil Chua, Lito Orillaza and Rudy Salud of Makati Coliseum, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Johnny Elorde, Lito Alcantara, Mon Torres and Ramon Mancenares. Meanwhile, reservation of cockhouses is still ongoing for Pasay Cockpit's "19th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby" which is slated on July 18, 20 and 22. Two pointers in the elimination rounds on July 18 and 20 will get P15,000 each. Participants with three straight wins (fight numbers 1, 2 and 3) will share in the P100,000 prize; for fight numbers 2, 3 and 4, P100,000 and for fight numbers 3, 4 and 5, P100, 000. The guaranteed prize is P2 million for an entry fee of P15,000. For inquiries, contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

Taulava to see action for Phone Pals today

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:45 p.m.—Red Bull Barako vs Shell (battle for third)
7:35 p.m.—Talk N Text vs San Miguel Beer (Game 1, best-of-seven Finals)

By June Navarro

ASI TAULAVA is coming back. And this time, it looks as if it's for good.



ACE Custis (center) and Nic Belasco will play crucial roles for the Beermen tonight. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Acting on a letter sent by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and looking out for the "paramount interest of the league," PBA commissioner Noli Eala reinstated the Talk 'N Text slotman in time for Game 1 of the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum tonight.

"While there are arguments for and against the continued suspension of Mr. Taulava, we set aside all legal niceties and looked at the paramount interest of the league," said Eala in explaining the reinstatement of Taulava.

The decision was reached after a late night meeting among members of the league's management committee, a meeting spurred by a letter from the justice department that effectively overturned its decision on Taulava's citizenship.

"We received the letter of the DOJ, which, in effect, reversed its findings on Mr. Taulava's case, thereby removing any hurdle for his reinstatement," Eala said.

The DOJ had earlier ruled that Taulava had faked his papers to acquire Filipino citizenship.

But the DOJ will clarified that its clearance of Taulava is "in now way a reversal of our stand to have this case elevated for review before the Supreme Court to settle once and for all the pertinent issues."

"We're very excited to have Asi finally play," said Talk 'N Text coach Joel Banal, whose Phone Pals are colliding with the Beermen in the Finals for the first time in franchise history.

"We always prepare for two scenarios—one with Asi and one without him," added Banal, looking for his second coaching title after steering the Phone Pals to their first crown in the 2003 All-Filipino Cup. "So I don't think his presence will disrupt our system."

The Phone Pals have yet to conquer the Beermen in a series for more than five years. Talk 'N Text had lost four quarterfinal confrontations and a semifinal encounter against San Miguel since 2000.

San Miguel Beer and Talk 'N Text will go to war armed with contrasting strategies.

For the Beermen, it will be a matter of plugging some loopholes in the paint which their opponents are bound to exploit, especially with the 6-foot-9 Taulava present, while the Phone Pals are wary of San Miguel's championship experience and hunger for the crown.

"The hunger factor is definitely there. But we have enough problems without Asi and now, we have a bigger one with him around," said San Miguel coach Jong Uichico.

The Beermen picked up their last title in the 2001 All-Filipino Cup.

After replacing the 6-foot-10 Chris Burgess with the smaller Ace Custis, the Beermen's frontline had suddenly shrunk with Dorian Pena, Danny Ildefonso and Nic Belasco now forced to carry a heavier burden in the shaded lane.

"I believe that Ace (Custis) can match up with quicker players in the Talk 'N Text lineup and we feel that he's the right import for us," said San Miguel Beer team captain Olsen Racela, who is urging all SMB fans to wear red for tonight's 7:30 game.

Lean but quick and agile, the 6-foot-6 Custis has provided added firepower and strength to the San Miguel backcourt, which already has Racela, Dondon Hontiveros and Danny Seigle, the league's top local scorer.

"The series is not about Alapag, Miller or me—this is a team game and it's about San Miguel and Talk 'N Text trying to win a championship," said Racela.

Miller will wear a protective mask after hurting his nose bridge against Shell last week.

The Phone Pals advanced after beating the Turbochargers in Game 4 of their best-of-five semifinal series, the same route taken by the Beermen in shaking off Red Bull Barako.

Custis broke Enrico Villanueva's nose in the deciding game of the series, causing alarm on the physical side of competition in Game 1.

"It will be an intriguing matchup. It's going to be highly physical and I expect a lot of contact but I hope it would not be done intentionally," said Alapag.

"I apologize for what I've done. It's not intentional and I'm not a dirty player by any means," said Custis.

BAP's ouster a dangerous precedent—Tan

A RANKING official of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) yesterday bewailed the expulsion of the basketball body from the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), stressing that this could set a dangerous precedent.

Christian Tan, BAP executive vice president, said that the role of a national Olympic committee is to arbitrate when there are disputes and differences.

"When there are conflicts, there must be arbitration, there must be dialogue, but the POC was hell bent on its decision to expel us," said Tan.

He warned that nothing can now prevent POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco from expelling national sports associations, whose officials he didn't like and create new associations with his allies as leaders.

"This is a dangerous precedent," said Tan, who also claimed that Cojuangco had reneged on his guarantee that the cage impasse would be settled amicably if former Sen. Joey Lina was made president of the basketball body.

"Joey Lina would not have been in that begging position if not for the request of Cojuangco himself, who asked us to make Senator Lina the BAP president. It took some time to convince Senator Lina to accept Cojuangco's request," said Tan. "It was one of our reasons in convincing Lina to be BAP president."

Tan said he was surprised why Cojuangco himself voted to expel the BAP, even if Lina, his protégé, was already the head of the BAP."

The BAP official thanked Lina for taking up the cudgels for the association.

"He presented our case in a very convincing and eloquent manner. Had the POC membership observed genuine concern and fair play, Senator Lina would have won the day for us. We are sorry for Sen. Lina, but we admire him for his support to the BAP and his being a gentleman," he said.

RUDY ESPERAS

COJUANGCO (left) and Lina in a cordial moment before the POC meeting yesterday.

Expulsion inevitable after suspension, says Lina

By Musong R. Castillo

JOEY Lina believes that the Basketball Association of the Philippines never had a chance.

"The moment the suspension (on the BAP) was made, expulsion was the next order," Lina said, moments after the controversial cage body was banished as a member of the Philippine Olympic Committee yesterday.

The BAP was suspended indefinitely last May 25 after the POC found the cage body to have "reneged" on basic agreements contained in a basketball covenant forged in two summits organized by the POC and attended by all the sport's stakeholders.

"Who among us does not commit mistakes?" Lina asked as he likened the BAP to the proverbial prodigal son.

"A prodigal son is always welcomed back by the father," Lina said. "But not in our case."

Lina spoke long and hard in pleading the BAP's case before the local Olympic body and its members, citing a six-point program which he will lead.

"The BAP was in the process of introducing a lot of improvements, mindful of the POC's concern for basketball," Lina said. "But they (POC) would not take my explanation.

"Even the United States, a global power, lost some games," said Lina. "That's why I am wondering why our appeal has fallen on deaf ears."

Lina met with POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco on Wednesday in a last-ditch effort to avert the expulsion.

"We have opened ourselves to the extent of surrendering some of our autonomy," Lina said.

Although admitting what he did was an exercise in futility, Lina, the sportsman that he is, took everything in stride.

"Even if it (expulsion) hurts, I assume that (the other NSAs) voted against us in good faith."

No plain draw, it's Pacquiao by KO

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

TEXT message of the day yesterday, and flavor of the season too, was the one from a friend who excused himself for tardiness, all due to lapse in judgment. ("*Kung hindi man ako naka*-text recently, I AM SORRY. *Pinagsisihan ko ang lahat*. It was a lapse of judgment.")

Of course, story of the day for the Pinoy boxing fan yesterday was the screaming victory scored by our Manny Pacquiao in his grim legal fight against handlers, both Filipino and American, found to have duped him.

Promoter Murad Muhammad offered an out-of-court settlement to end the New York jury trial of the $33 million case filed by Pacquiao.

As a result, Pacquiao has been freed of Murad's stranglehold, after the New Jersey promoter was ordered by the court to pay huge settlement money and the legal fees for Pacquiao's battery of lawyers who agreed to represent the RP boxing icon for a minimum of $100,000.

* * *

It's rather odd, but an initial reading of the trial result tended to show the best Pacquiao had scored in the legal skirmish was a limp draw.

"Pacquiao and Murad have settled their legal battle out of court, resulting in the dropping of their suits and countersuits..." wrote one reporter who has been openly identified with Murad.

At least two other stories failed to drum up the Pacquiao win and focused rather on the out-of-court settlement.

Not the Star, whose sports section banner read: "Manny TKOs Murad" Wrote Joaquin Henson: "In the face of overwhel-ming evidence, Murad Muhammad threw in the towel and offered an out-of-court settlement to end the New York federal jury trial of the $33 million case Manny Pacquiao filed against the New Jersey promoter. It was a resounding victory not only for Pacquiao but also for the sport of boxing."

* * *

Well, all told, we could conclude that those who had tried to picture a draw in the Pacquiao-Murad bout had also been hampered by "lapse in judgment."

At least, unlike the erring President of the land, they should be forgiven. They did not happen to represent the Philippines and its people, and they did not try to manipulate results of the national election.

For how, ask Muhammad Ali and all the other fight greats, could it be a draw when Murad had to throw in the towel?

"Murad did not sense a draw, he knew he would lose it flat, the reason he asked for settlement," explained fight expert Hermie Rivera.

That's very hard to contest, for it had become quite clear and certain, Rivera added, Murad would've been knocked out cold had the hearing continued and the court ruled using the full revelation provision in the Muhammad Ali Reform Act.

* * *

If there were no winners, there should be no reason to celebrate.

Truth is, as noted by Henson, Pacquiao has won the first test of the Reform Act, which seeks, among others, "to protect the rights and welfare of professional boxers on an interstate basis by preventing certain exploitative, oppressive and unethical business practices..."

Pacquiao will thus claim the balance of the pay-per-view receipts that Top Rank withheld in relation to the Erik Morales fight last March.

The bigger triumph, of course, was the one scored by Pacquiao "for all of boxing."

Pacquiao had clearly been exploited, not only by his US promoter but by his Filipino handlers, as well.

His victory will however be officially registered as a stoppage, a resounding KO, only if he proceeds to go after Filipino tormentors on whom he had innocently entrusted his life and career.

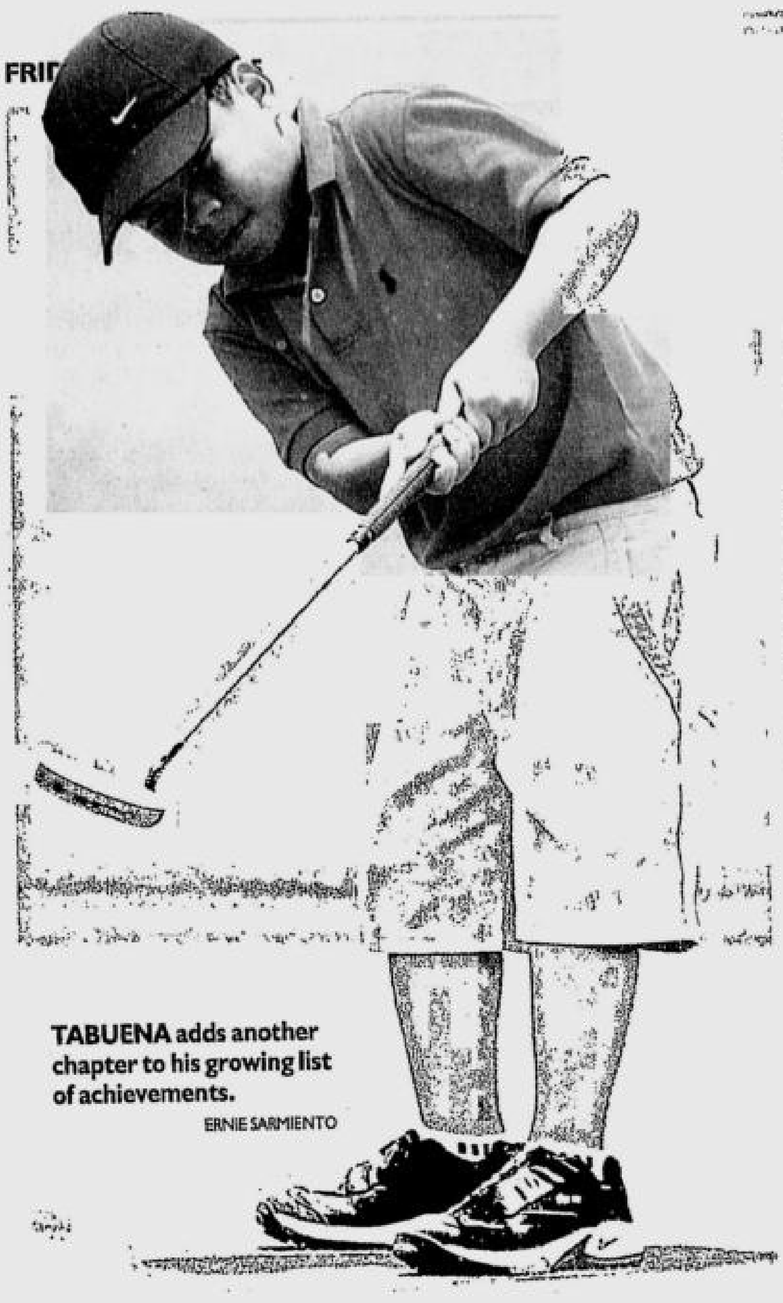
Pacquiao, unlike his idol and backer in Malacañang, should not allow himself to suffer from lapse in judgment.

He has the whole boxing world to represent.

* * *

(LAPSES: A main line in my column on Wednesday dealing on the GMA mask should've read: "Everything was so new, but what GMA had to do was sickeningly dramatic, very hard to swallow." Also: "... as the remains of Jaime Cardinal Sin were being lowered into the crypt, the television crawled out this note: 'GMA admission created more questions than answers.'")

Tabuena, Gabasa clinch San Diego jungolf titles



TABUENA adds another chapter to his growing list of achievements.
ERNIE SARMIENTO

MIGUEL Tabuena successfully defended the boys 9-10 years division and Irina Gabasa made it a double celebration for Philippine bets when she topped the girls category in the Chris Riley Junior Championship at Lawrence Welk Fountains course last Wednesday in San Diego, California.

Tabuena shot a two-over-par 63 to finish two strokes ahead of Ricky Desantis (65) in his division where 34 players from all over San Diego and neighboring counties took part. He also won by the same margin last year.

Miguel claimed his second international crown this year after winning the UBS Championship in Bangkok, Thailand, last March.

Gabasa, playing out of Cebu, shot a five-over 68 to beat Jennifer Peng by five strokes in their category which had 11 entries. Crystal Wang, also of San Diego, came in third after a 72 while another RP entry, Andie Unson, placed fourth at 73.

Also in Tabuena's division, Lloyd Jefferson Go carded a 72 and wound up solo eighth.

Tabuena, whose trip to the US is sponsored by Philippine Airlines, dedicated the victory to his grandfather Louie, who is recuperating in a hospital in Manila.

"He really wanted to win for his *lolo* and he said he'll try to win some more for him in his next tournaments," said Miguel's father Luigi, who had to rush back from the US and was told of the victory by wife Lorna.

The four players are among the 44 bets to be fielded by the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines in the Junior World championships in San Diego, California, from July 12-15.

Jungolf chair Amalia Montecillo and president Raoul Lachica said that the victories of Tabuena and Gabasa hopefully will inspire them and the other members of the Philippine delegation to win more trophies in the Junior World and the other stints lined up for them in the US.

Sun Star 9-ball games on TV tonight

MIKA Immonen, the 2001 World Pool champion, and former European 9-ball champion Marcus Chamat lead an elite cast of cue masters in the 1st Sun Star Super Balita 9-Ball International in Cebu, which airs tonight on IBC-13.

The rest of the field includes world beaters Lee Van Corteza, Ronnie Alcano, Dennis Orcollo, Warren Kiamco and Antonio Gabica.

The tournament will follow the "ring game" format of international billiards. The players will compete in a series of round-robin matches where the first player to reach six victories is declared the champion.

This is the first time a tournament of this nature will be shown on nationwide television. The event serves as a preview of a new show titled "Cue Masters," which is produced by Rocketman Enterprises and will air on IBC-13 in July.

"The fast pace and exciting nature of the ring game make the 'Cue Masters' show an ideal billiards format for television," said Ramon Tuason, president of Rocketman Enterprises.

Vinluan catches Dacudao for lead in Samsung Tour

CAGAYAN de Oro—On a day of soaring scores, Don Erwin Vinluan submitted a two-over-par 74 yesterday to tie Louie Dacudao for the lead halfway through the second leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour eliminations at the Pueblo de Oro Golf and Country Club here.

Vinluan, down by four at the start of the day, nibbled at the lead of Dacudao under a steady drizzle and seized control on the 15th that capped a four-shot swing from the 13th to the 15th. But he had a wild final stretch that saw him slip with a double-bogey on the 16th, recover with a birdie on the 17th and a bogey on the 18th.

Dacudao, who broke the course record previously held by pro Cassius Casas with a roaring seven-under 65 on Wednesday, went three over on his first three holes en route to a 78 and was still lucky to have ended the day holding on to a share of the lead with Vinluan at 143 after 36 holes.

Dacudao's second round effort was completely a far cry from his smashing bogey-free opening stint where he scattered seven birdies. He got only one yesterday which came on the seventh against five bogeys and a double-bogey.

Dacudao's nosedive allowed Bobby Jaraula to make it a three-cornered fight after he shot a day-best 72 to creep to within three strokes at 146 going into the final two days of the tourney which also enjoys the support of Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Coppertone Sport, Srixon, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT. 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

Roger Tan carded an 86-168 to beat Willy Maldia (82-170) for the men's Class C plum. Jude Yuzon could have been the runaway winner in the group but failed to put a score on the ninth hole and was disqualified.

Paul Miñoza barely made the 10-man cut, tying for the last spot at 157. He was the only one from the popular clan to make it as Jolan Miñoza wound up at 159 and Ben Minoza ended four shots off the number at 161.

Completing the qualifiers who will continue play the next two days were Joel Opaco 81-150, Tristan Tabanas 76-151, Ondoy Mondilla 80-153, Yoyong Velez 74-155, Tommy Tabanas 78-155 and Lino Retuerto 78-156.

Coinciding with the last two days of play today and tomorrow are the competitions in Class A and Class B.

Ballecer tops youth active chess

ST. BENILDE'S Dino Ballecer foiled Nelson Mariano III in the final round then nipped Omar Bagalacsa and Melvin Palomata in the tiebreak to top the juniors division of the NCR (National Capital Region) leg of the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship at SM Manila over the weekend.

Ballecer, Bagalacsa and Palomata wound up with identical 6.5 points in the seven-round Swiss system tournament but Ballecer took top honors and the P5,000 top purse with a superior tiebreak score. Bagalacsa trounced Froilan Bolico III in the last round and finished second worth P4,000 while Palomata settled for third place and P3,000 after halving the point with top seed Christian Arroyo.

The troika thus advanced to the national finals, set in October, of the annual even sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, along with the top three finishers in the kiddies division, including Narquinden Reyes, Loren Brigham Laceste and Mari Joseph Turqueza. Reyes swept his last three matches, including a victory over Wilbert Pilarta in the final round, then edged Laceste and Turqueza in the tiebreak to top the kiddies side and take home the P4,000 purse. Laceste, who topped this leg last year, settled for second and P3,000 this time while Turqueza received P2,000 for third.

Pilipinas Shell's Bobby Malabanan and IM Rudy Cardoso gave the awards to the top placers of the event held to help develop the sport and discover talents in the countryside. The two-day event, sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines and backed by McDonald's Philippines, Accel, Cebu Pacific, Shell Better Mileage Gasolines, Shellane in cooperation with SM Supermalls, Gaisano Mall (Davao City) and Lim Ketkai Mall (Cagayan de Oro City), kicked the four-month long nationwide chess circuit for 14-years-and-under and 20-and-under students and out-of-school youths.

The second leg will be held July 9-10 at SM Baguio for the northern Luzon leg.

For details, call 0916-5146384 or 744-1664.

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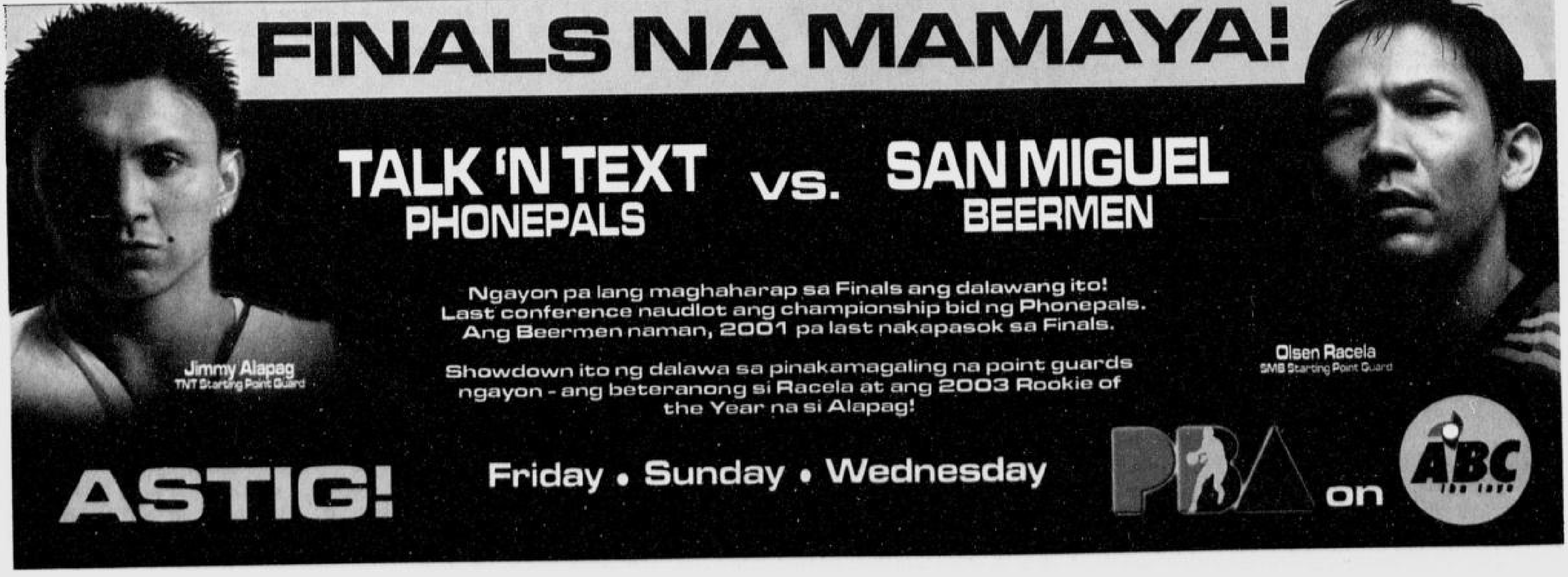

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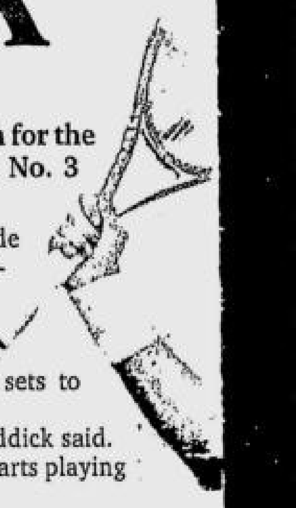
'Old' Swede stirs up semis mix



WIMBLEDON, England—That's quite a cast Wimbledon came up with for the men's semifinals: top-ranked Roger Federer, No. 2 Lleyton Hewitt, No. 3 Andy Roddick and . . . Thomas Johansson?

The oldest player still in the tournament, Johansson is also the most obscure. Sidelined for all of 2003 by a serious knee injury, the 30-year-old Swede has revived his career and reached the final four at the All England Club.

Playing in his second Grand Slam semifinal, 2002 Australian Open champion Johansson will face Roddick on Friday.

"I know that when I play my best tennis, I can compete with the big boys," Johansson said.

Grass-court opposition doesn't come any bigger than Federer, Hewitt and Roddick. It's the first time the three highest-seeded men have reached the semifinals since 1995.

For the first time since 1993, all four semifinalists have won major titles. And Federer's match against Hewitt will be the first time the two top-ranked men have met in the semis since 1989.

"It's like a final for me," said Hewitt, who advanced by beating Feliciano Lopez, 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (2).

The Australian won the title in 2002. His successor as champion was Federer, who also won last year, beating Roddick in the final.

And then there's Johansson, considered an improbable champion when he won his only major title 3 1/2 years ago. He struggled the rest of that year, then underwent left knee surgery in February 2003.

"A lot of people did not think I was going to be able to come back," Johansson said.

He was among them, doubting his future when he returned to the courts in early 2004 and failed to win a single set in nearly a week of practice matches.

"I said to my coach, 'I think this is it,'" Johansson said.

He persevered, rediscovered his strokes and finished last year ranked No. 30. Still just 22nd in rankings, but seeded 12th because of his past success on grass, Johansson beat No. 18 David Nalbandian, 7-6 (5), 6-2, 6-2, in the quarterfinals.

Nalbandian is the only seeded opponent Johansson has faced. With the help of the favorable draw, he's the first Swede to reach the Wimbledon semifinals since two-time champion Stefan Edberg in 1993.

Johansson has won his past three matches in straight sets to make the final four.

"I'm not super surprised," Roddick said. "He's the type of guy, when he starts playing well, he plays really well."

Roddick's on a roll, too, and into the semifinals for the third year in a row. On Wednesday he outlasted frequent practice partner Sebastien Grosjean, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

Roddick came into the tournament following a disappointing clay-court season and had lost his past five five-set matches. He has won two during the fortnight.

"It feels good to get through a couple," he said. "There was a lot of heat on me coming into this tournament, and I wanted to prove that I'm still a pretty good tennis player. I'd love to take it further. I'm not satisfied yet."

The more glamorous semifinal features Federer against Hewitt. As always on grass, Federer will be the favorite: He extended his winning streak on the surface to 34 matches by beating Fernando Gonzalez, 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (2).

Federer has beaten Hewitt seven times in a row.

"He has been the supreme player, especially on this surface," Hewitt said. "He has been nearly unbeatable in certain matches. He doesn't have a lot of big weaknesses out there, but you've got to try and pin something down. Even then, he can still find ways to win when he's not hitting the ball great."

Federer was hitting it well in the quarterfinals, when he warded off a barrage from the big-swinging Gonzalez. Federer improved to 96-5 since June 2004 and is trying to become the third player since 1936 to win three consecutive Wimbledon titles.

"Today the whole match I think I was tense, because I knew another semifinal was possible," Federer said. "If I keep on playing like this, that is definitely good. I can beat any player with this level." *AP*

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Sharapova, Davenport inch closer to title duel

LONDON—Defending champion Maria Sharapova and top seed Lindsay Davenport are on a Wimbledon final collision course if they can come through tricky semifinal matches on Thursday.

A year after walking away from the All England Club saying she might never return, top seed Lindsay Davenport, looking fitter than ever, takes on Amelie Mauresmo.

After failing twice previously at this stage, Mauresmo wants to shake off her fragile big-match reputation and overturn a sequence of seven defeats against 29-year-old Davenport, who won Wimbledon in 1999.

In contrast, Venus Williams has never lost a Wimbledon semi in four appearances, though it could be tough against Sharapova.

Sharapova, with her thunderbolt serve and ear-splitting yelps, has yet to drop a set in the championships.

The 18-year-old knows she will have to perform at least as well as she did in last year's final against Venus' sister, Serena, if she is to come through. *Reuters*

WILLIAMS AP

SHARAPOVA REUTERS

Woods eyes br

CHICAGO, Illinois—Tiger Woods believes he has what it takes to become the first player in PGA Tour history to reach the $50-million mark in career earnings.

The world's top-ranked player Woods needs just $56,974 in earnings and he will get a legitimate shot at reaching the l
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Real F1 racing

MAGNY COURS, France—After the debacle of the United States Grand Prix, Formula One tries to get back to normal racing this weekend in its return to Europe.

The French Grand Prix is the first race since seven teams boycotted the June 19 US GP over safety concerns of its Michelin tires.

F1's governing body FIA this week found the seven teams guilty of wrongfully refusing t
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World Pool: Will P

CLEAN LIVI

Manolo R. Iñigo

RANGED against the world's toughest players, defending champion Alex Pagulayan will be having his hands full during the 2005 World Pool Championship in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan. The $350,000 event, promoted by Matchroom Sport, starts tomorrow and runs for nine consecutive days, ending on Sunday evening, July 10.

A star-studded field of 128 players from 40 countries will be disputing the first prize of $75,000 (roughly P4.2 million) put up by the organizing Chinese Taipei Billiards Association and Mr. Tu Sports. The tournament is sanctioned by the World Pool Association, the sport's governing body. It will also be covered live across Asia by television partners ESPN Star Sports. The event will likewise be aired live on Sky Sports in the UK as well as syndicated around the world.

The 27-year-old Pagulayan will defend his world crown against former winners Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, Earl Strickland of the United States, Mika Immonen of Finland, Chao Fong-pang of the host nation, the Philippines' Efren "Bata" Reyes and Japan's Kunihiko Takahashi and Chinese Taipei's current No. 1 player, Yang Ching-shun, who won the Philippine International 9-Ball Open last Wednesday at the jampacked Robinson's Galleria.

"Alex (Pagulayan) will be pitted against the world's best, including those coming from Chinese Taipei," said Philippine billiards "godfather" Aristeo "Putch" Puyat. "These Chinese Taipei players are dynamic shooters and masters of the jump shots. Yang is a living example."

Known as the "Son of Pool" in billiards circles, Yang is "Mr. Cool" personified at the pool table. But don't be misled by his appearance.

Behind that quiet demeanor is a mean machine, a player oozing with talent, creativity and explosive breaks. Three-time world champion Strickland even acknowledged Yang as the best player in the world for his booming breaks during a tournament in Cardiff, Wales. In the 2005 San

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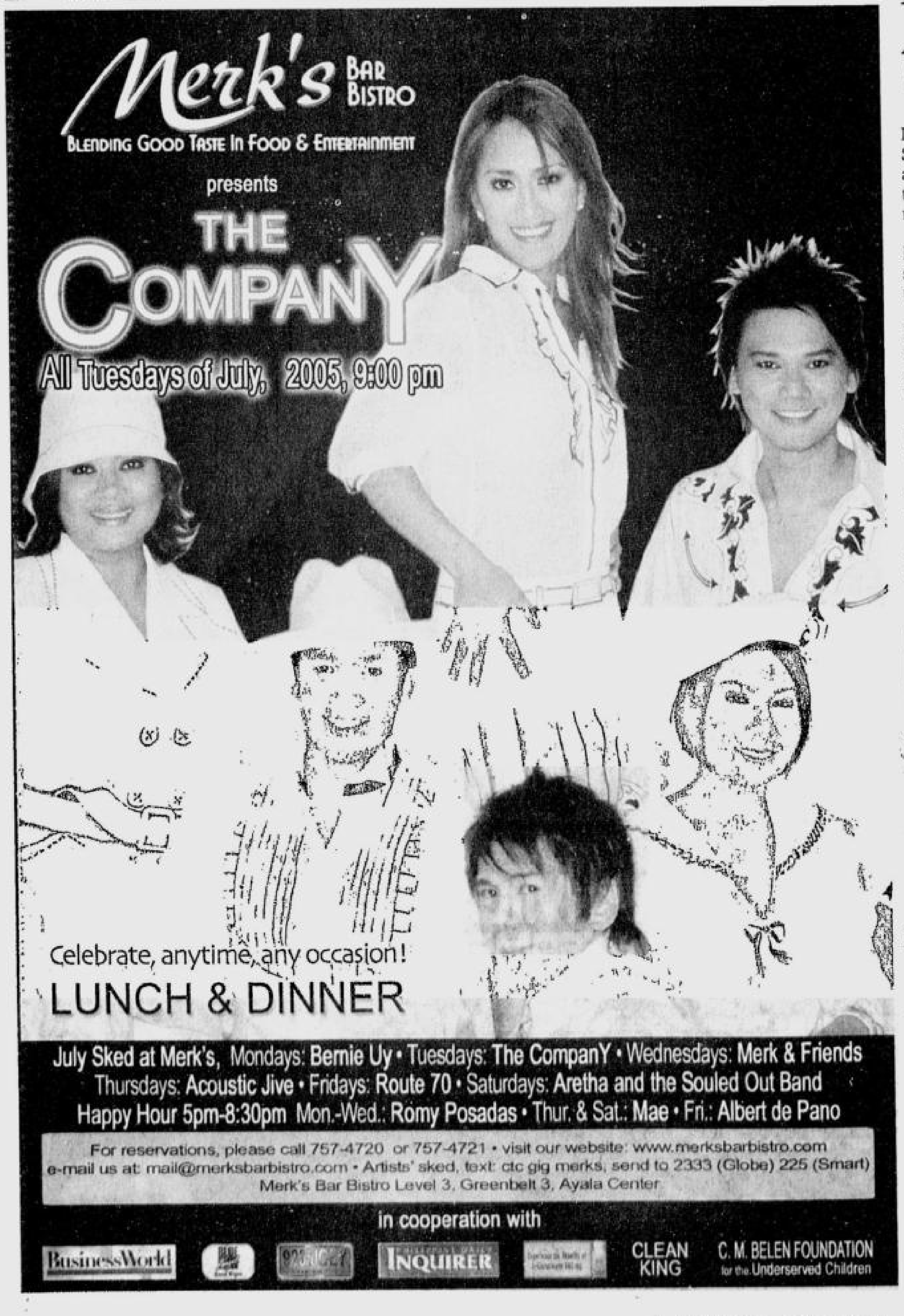

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New trick works for Roddick

WIMBLEDON, England—To appreciate what Andy Roddick is trying to do at Wimbledon, imagine a pitcher experimenting with knuckleballs in Game 5 of the World Series—or a golfer changing his grip at the start of a Masters' playoff.

Maybe the adjustment isn't quite that radical, but serve-and-volley tennis is about as familiar to Roddick as Gaelic football. He knows it's in his best interest, but he would give anything to just hang around the baseline for the rest of his life. Credit the man for taking risks, leaving himself vulnerable to embarrassment and perhaps a crucial loss or two.

Roddick reached the Wimbledon semifinals for the third consecutive year Wednesday with his 3-6, 6-2, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 victory over Sebastien Grosjean. He has a clear shot at the final now, needing only a victory over 12th-seeded Thomas Johansson, who knocked off David Nalbandian with surprising ease, 7-6 (5), 6-2, 6-2.

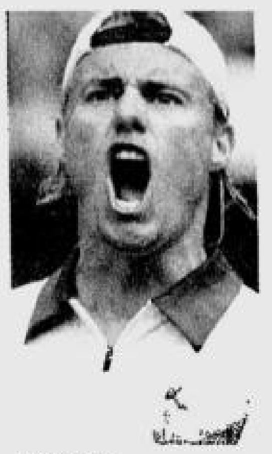
That semifinal may not compare to the Roger Federer-Lleyton Hewitt titanic, especially considering how sharp those two players look. Federer routinely dispatched Fernando Gonzalez of Chile, 7-5, 6-2, 7-6 (2), while Hewitt dropped the hammer on Spain's Feliciano Lopez, 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (2). That, for the moment, is the match everyone wants to see.

Roddick couldn't care less. Winning Wimbledon requires a slightly different approach than years past, the courts playing noticeably slower since being reseeded with 100-percent rye grass, but aggressive, all-court tennis will always be beneficial on this surface.

Roddick has come to realize that he can't always slug away from the baseline against the likes of Federer, Hewitt or even Nalbandian, whom he had expected to play in the semis.

RODDICK AP

JOHANSSON AFP



HEWITT AFP

"If I'm holding serve and dictating the play by staying back, then I'm going to do that," he said. "But if somebody's just cranking from the baseline and getting the better of me, I need the option of giving him a different look, making him think about his returns a little bit.

"I mean, I've always come up to the net," he said. "But usually it was just to shake hands."

In the alternating sunshine and charcoal-gray skies over Center Court, Roddick got formidable opposition from Grosjean, the two-time Wimbledon semifinalist, who was particularly brilliant with his service returns and backhand passing shots. Roddick came to the net with regularity, often decidedly off-form with his volleys and never resembling a true artist such as Stefan Edberg or Tim Henman. Nevertheless, he won some key points there, each one adding to his experience bank.

"There was a lot of heat on me coming into this tournament," said Roddick, who hasn't won a Grand Slam tournament since the 2003 US Open. "I want to prove that I'm still a pretty good tennis player, you know? I'm not gone. I'm 22 years old, still right there. I feel like I still deserve a little bit of respect."

For pure shot making, Roddick will never be the equal of Federer—nor will anyone else on the scene today. Federer was up against a mad, creative genius in Gonzalez, who had the crowd gasping over the breadth of his imagination.

At 4-4 in the first set, Gonzalez came up with a shot that defied convention. Coming in for a forehand approach, he dramatically wound up his delivery like a fast-pitch softball pitcher. Then he golfed at the ball with extreme slice, creating a bizarre little floater that bounced crazily toward Federer's body.

Federer said later, "To take a swing at such a ball was a little weird. He just hits incredible shots all the time. He's different. Quite unique, I would say."

So you want unique? Federer is your man. On the match's signature shot, Federer came charging to the net on an apparently hopeless attempt to retrieve a Gonzalez drop shot. He not only got to the ball, just short of crashing into the net, he flicked an astounding cross-court winner with the forehand. Nobody else in tennis does it quite like that. *New York Times News Service*

ER Federer leaps after his quarterfinal victory. AP

DAVENPORT AP

MAURESMO REUTERS

Tour may produce Armstrong successor

PARIS—Who will take over from Lance Armstrong? The 2005 Tour de France, which starts from the island of Noirmoutier on Saturday, should provide some answers to the big question dominating cycling.

If the American himself wins a seventh Tour in a row on the Champs-Elysees on July 24, there may be no immediately obvious successor.

The hotly contested, three-week race should, however, provide plenty of indications as to who the 2006 Tour winner might be.

Armstrong, who will retire after the race, has probably never had so many serious rivals in one Tour. The sport has reached a turning point with two generations of riders competing for the first time together in the world's most famous cycling race.

The old guard, led by five-time Tour runner-up Jan Ullrich, is composed of men Armstrong knows well and has regularly beaten. The younger generation, led by Italian Ivan Basso, might not yet be experienced or mature enough to pose a threat.

Yet the twists and uncertainties of the Tour could help one of the Texan's many opponents hit the big time.

For 1997 Tour champion Ullrich, this is a last chance to beat the American on the road. When he won his only Tour, most experts saw the German as the likeliest rider to beat the record of five wins held by Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain.

Personal problems, training errors, weight excess and probably the absence of an exceptional coach and adviser stopped the German from fulfilling his promise. *Reuters*

Western Open: Daly still gets the spotlight

LEMONT, Illinois—Whether he's on the golf course or pulling his big motorhome up to a promotional appearance, someone always wants to shake John Daly's hand.

Those booming drives and two major titles aside, fans look at him and see themselves. He struggles with personal problems just like they do, and he doesn't exactly have a typical athlete's physique.

"They just can't believe an overweight, out-of-shape guy like me can walk 18 holes," Daly said with a laugh after his pro-am round at the Western Open on Wednesday.

Daly has been the people's favorite since 1991, when, as the ninth alternate, he drove through the night to play the US PGA Championship and wound up winning. His drinking problems and marital woes only endeared him more to fans, all of whom know someone—a neighbor, friend, maybe even a brother or sister—just like him.

Back at Cog Hill Golf Club for the first time since 1996, Daly was trailed by some of the biggest galleries of the day Wednesday.

"The fans have been through thick and thin with me," he said, "and it's nice to play decent golf for them."

Daly has quietly resurrected his career the last two seasons, winning last year's Buick Invitational—his first victory on the US PGA Tour since he won the 1995 British Open. He had four other top-10 finishes and ended the year ranked 21st, his best showing since 1991.

This year, he lost the Shell Houston Open in a playoff with Vijay Singh, the second-best player in the world. He also tied for 17th at both the Mercedes Championships and the Match Play Championship, and is currently ranked 50th.

But he's also missed four cuts. At Bay Hill, he shot an 80 in the final round thanks to an 11 on the 18th hole. *AP*

each of golf's $50-M mark

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round 70 on the Dubsdread Course at the Chicago-area Cog Hill Golf and Country Club.

Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, Ames has been unable to duplicate the success he had a year ago.

He had a career-best 11 top-10 finishes in 2004 but has just one this season, a tie for sixth at the Heritage.

Woods is making his first start since his runner-up finish at the US Open in Pinehurst two weeks ago.

The winner of The Masters in April, Woods was undone by two late bogeys and finished second in a major for only the second time in his career. *AFP*

returns after US GP fiasco

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Ferrari ace Michael Schumacher, the seven-time series champion, has won seven times here and set a record when he clinched the 2002 drivers' title here, the earliest in Formula One history.

His first-place finish in the depleted Indianapolis race was his first of the season.

Jean Todt began his Ferrari career here in 1993 as the team boss and started it on the road to becoming the dominant team in the last six years.

Schumacher was one of only six drivers who raced at Indianapolis on June 19—all on Bridgestone tires.

"The title race is now a little more open as Canada and the United States were good for us. However, we have to avoid becoming overly optimistic," Schumacher said. "The road is still long. At least we are now in a better situation in the championship." *AP*

agulayan repeat?

Ball Tour, Yang
ld in his home-
also won the in-
in billiards dur-
Games in Busan,

not unfazed by
of his rivals. "I'm
id the Canada-
beat Taiwanese
st year's World
rld Trade Center

ld Pool Champi-
global as players
ce and Vietnam,
rds is not popu-
g against the cue

artists from the sport's major leagues such as the United States, Germany, Taiwan and the Philippines.

***

RICO NEEDS 3-4 WEEKS TO RECOVER. The recent incident at the Big Dome where Red Bull marquee player Rico Villanueva suffered a broken nose after getting hit by the wayward elbow of SMB import Adrian "Ace" Custis reminded me of a similar incident in November 2003 involving another Barako cager, Jimwell Torion, who broke the nose of Jimmy Alapag of TNT.

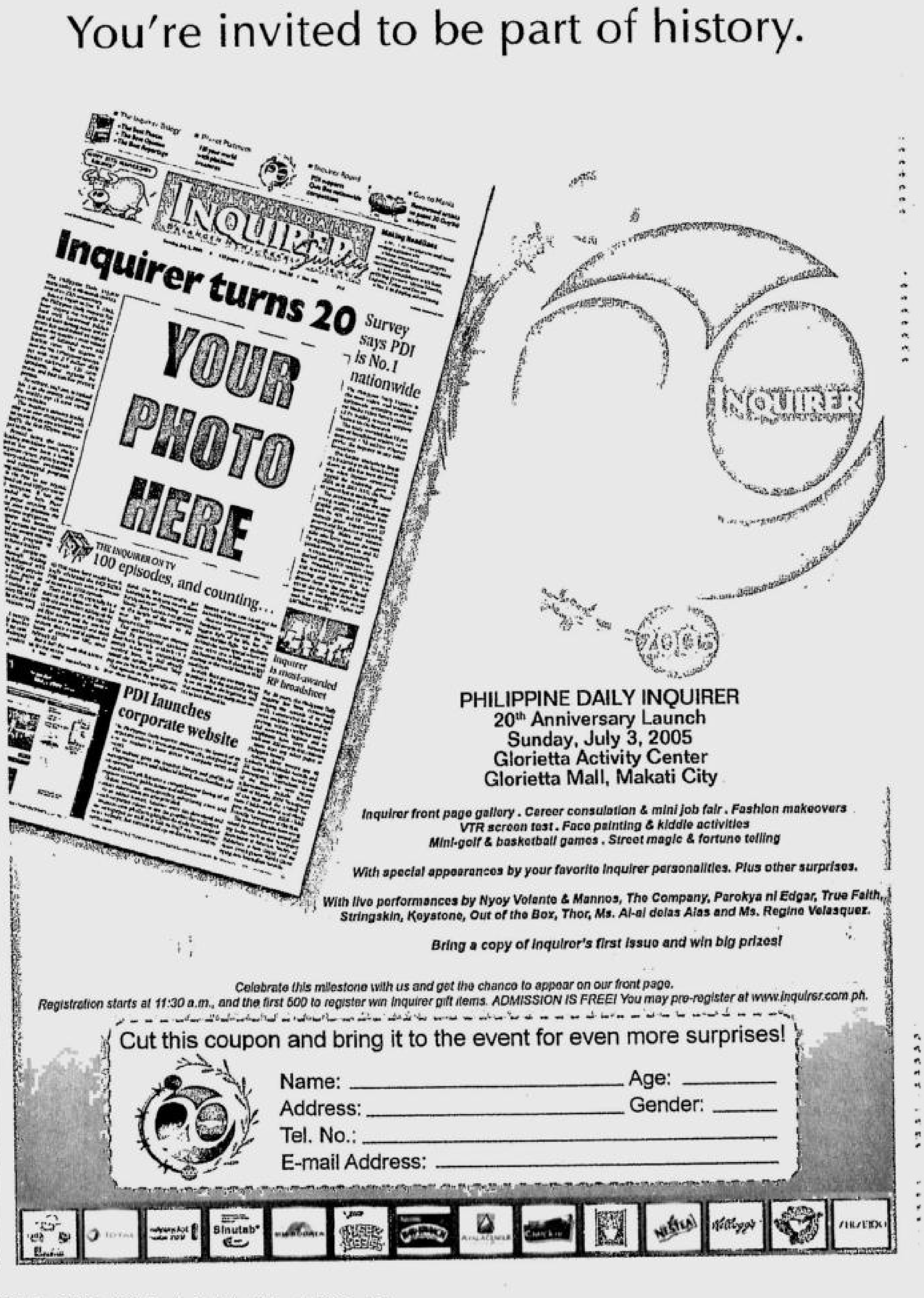
But while Torion was suspended for eight months (later reduced to five) and fined P70,000 by the Philippine Basketball Association, Custis was not punished for the incident which sent Villanueva to the hospital.

And to think that Custis, reported colleague Beth Celis, had also hurt other Red Bull players in only the few times that he has been playing here.

Because of this, many fans are saying that Custis is fast becoming a habitual offender, a court "hooligan" of sort, and should be investigated. They are also wondering why SMB imports have always been involved in past court misdeeds, citing as examples Beermen Lamont Strothers and Mario Bennet, who showed their lack of sportsmanship by trying to attack Gerald Francisco and chasing and cursing referee Franco Ilagan during a Governors' Cup game between Sta. Lucia and San Miguel Beer a few years back. And then there's volatile Art Long and Terquin Mott, who both displayed conducts not worth emulating by the sporting public.

Villanueva underwent a major nose surgery at the Chinese General Hospital to repair a fractured cartilage. According to Red Bull team physician Dr. John Lim, it will take from three to four weeks for Villanueva to recover.

"Even then, I am worried that Rico may not be able to play his normal game because of the trauma," said Dr. Lim. "In all likelihood, I will recommend that Rico wear a protective face mask just like Detroit Pistons' Rip Hamilton in the NBA."



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July 28,2005

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AYALA CINEMAS

THX

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 BATMAN BEGINS	2 WAR OF THE WORLDS	3 HAPPILY EVER AFTER	4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 BATMAN BEGINS	2 MR. & MRS. SMITH	3 THX WAR OF THE WORLDS GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY	5 HAPPILY EVER AFTER	6 WAR OF THE WORLDS	7 MONSTER-IN-LAW
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 BATMAN BEGINS 12:30, 3:20, 6:10,9:00	2 WAR OF THE WORLDS 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX WAR OF THE WORLDS 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 10:00 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 MR. & MRS. SMITH 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 BATMAN BEGINS 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MONSTER-IN-LAW 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX WAR OF THE WORLDS	2 WAR OF THE WORLDS		
	3 MONSTER-IN-LAW	4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER	5 BATMAN BEGINS	
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MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)

FANTASTIC 4

20th Century Fox

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The film HAPPILY EVER AFTER opens June 29 at Ayala Cinemas

Customer Service text hotline: Customer Service text hotline:	0917 6095900 Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn
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② Happily Ever After
③ War of the Worlds
④ Nasaan Ka Man

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⑥ Monster-in-Law
⑦ War of the Worlds

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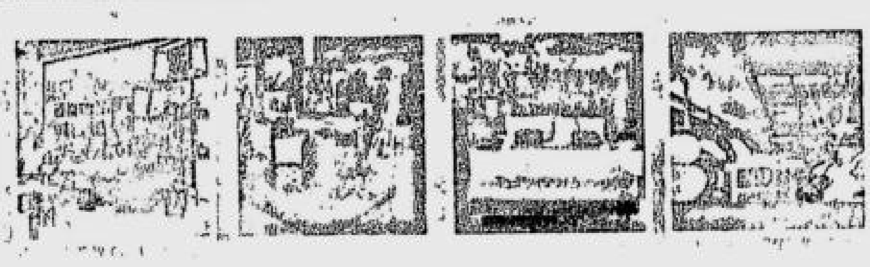

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1 WAR OF THE WORLDS • THX
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30

2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 HOTEL RWANDA
12:00 2:35 5:10 8:00 10:00

4 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
12:00 2:15 4:30 7:30 9:00

5 BATMAN BEGINS
1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

6 WAR OF THE WORLDS
1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

7 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

8 MONSTER-IN-LAW
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

9 NASAAN KA MAN
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20

2 NASAAN KA MAN
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

6 BATMAN BEGINS
12:00 3:15 6:30 9:45

7 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 HOTEL RWANDA
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

2 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
12:00 2:25 4:45 7:15 9:30

3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
1:25 4:00 6:35 9:10

4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00

5 BATMAN BEGINS
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

6 NASAAN KA MAN
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00

7 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

8 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
2 SHUTTER
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 BATMAN BEGINS

PIONEER 687-5378

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
4 BATMAN BEGINS

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3 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
4 BATMAN BEGINS

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

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2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
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4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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5 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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Ateneo-La Salle All-Stars game tomorrow at Araneta Coliseum

THE ALL-STARS game of the Fil-Oil-Flying-V "Ultimate Showdown: Ateneo-La Salle Basketball Classics" will be held tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

The encounter between the finest Varsity players of both schools from the mid '80s to 2004 will highlight the event organized by the Ateneo de Manila University College '82 and La Salle Green Hills High School '84.

But before the All-Stars game, the Legends from the '60s to the early '80s, which include La Salle's Franz Pumaren, Juancho Liwag, Tito Sagarbaria, Luis Mirasol and Monico Puentevella, and Ateneo's Jeric Hechanova, Nonoy Chuatico, Chito Mistades and Gerry Versoza, will strut their stuff.

Leading the charge of the La Salle All-Stars are Dindo Pumaren, Dino Aldeguer, Dwight Lago, Luigi Trillo, Eric Arejola, Dickie Bachman, Oliver Bunyi, Alvin Castro, Rafa Dinglasan, Aljun Garcia, Amel Guste, Mon Jose, Alvin Magpantay, Magsy Magsumbol, Mikee Romero, Juno Sauler, Joey Sta. Maria, Dominique Uy, Dondon Valero, Francis Zamora, and Tyronne Bautista with Franz Pumaren as coach.

The Ateneo All-Stars will be bannered by Vince Hizon, Jayvee Gayoso, Gene Afable, Gene Alabanza, Sandy Arespacochaga, Marco Benitez, Gabby Cui, JR Elmido, Dino Fernandez, Danny Francisco, Haj Jeongco, Albert Mendoza, Raymond Morales, Jet Nieto, Eric Reyes, Gabby Severino, Rainier Sison, Sonny Tadeo, Paul Tanchi, Mon Tioseco, and Epok Quimpo with Fritz Gaston as coach.

For inquiries, contact the LSGHAA at 726-6339, DLSU Sports Development Office at 526-4244, and ADMU Athletics Office at 426-6001 loc. 4191.

The event is being supported by Total Phils. Corp., Pure Play Sports Management, Accel, Millenium Plans, Bank of Commerce, Gerry's Grill, Kublai's, Inihaw Circle, Sunbolt, IO KTV, Citifinancial, Globelines, Pepsi, PCSO, Max's, Immuvit, FINO Leather, Shell, Unioil and CDO.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Kiss Me Quick 2. Shy Girl 3. Kalashnikov

Race 2—1. Pasirit 2. Jet Aime 3. La Española 4. Last Dance

Race 3—1. Fancy Dancer 2. Sea of Galilee 3. Loving Thunder 4. Money Order

Race 4—1. Hazmagic 2. Aya's Dream 3. Tout Est Grace 4. Pride of Masbate

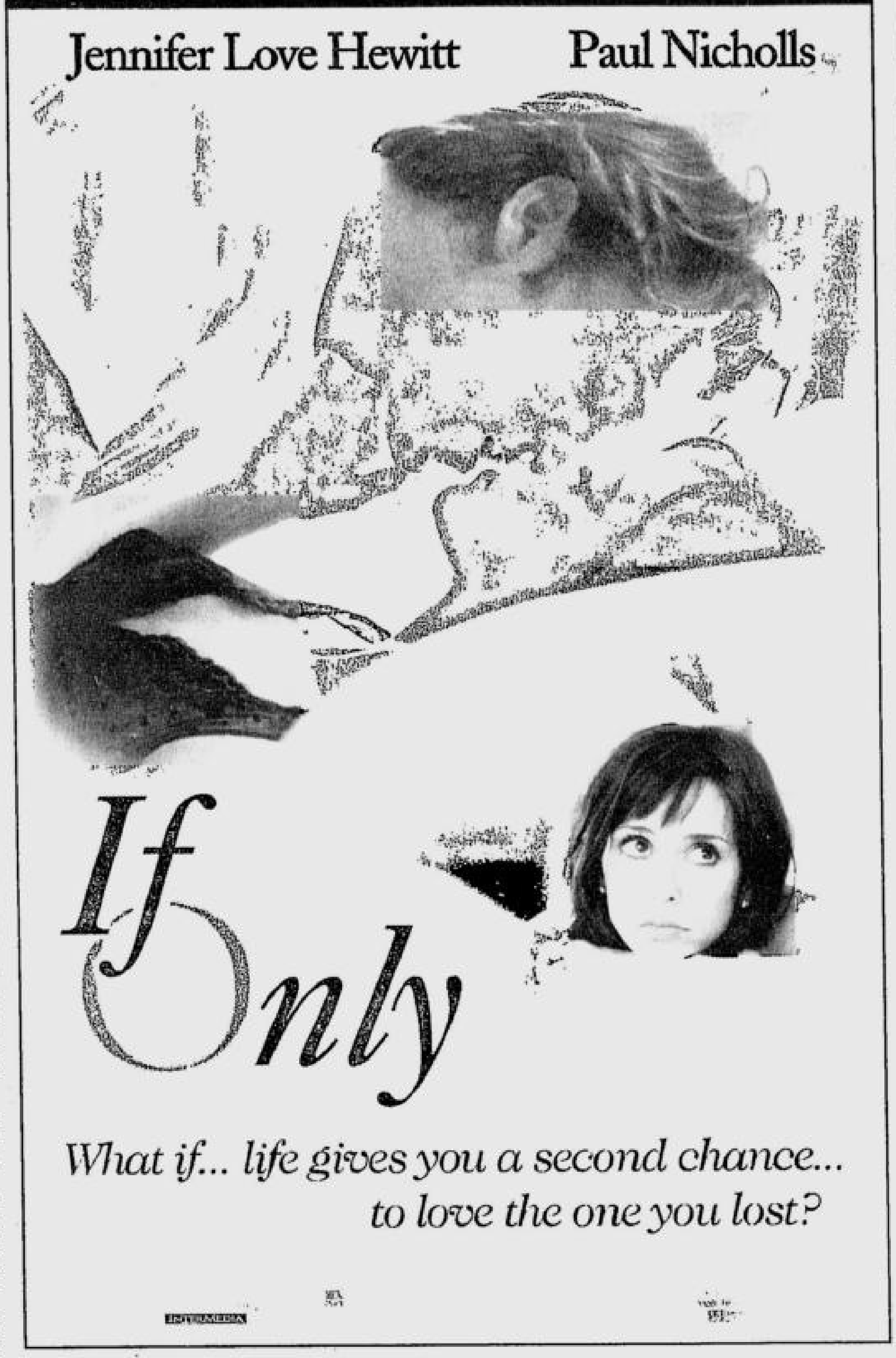
Race 5—1. Sir Benjo 2. Awesome Power 3. Blue Face 4. Daddy's Girl

Race 6—1. Wrecking Ball 2. Quick Pick 3. En Carta 4. Juan Marco 5. Caballero

Race 7—1. Cara Dura 2. Bunker Buster 3. Sweet Talk

Race 8—1. Stradivarius 2. Miracle Music 3. Tell Henry 4. Perfect Time 5. Smooth Strike

Race 9—1. Casanova 2. At All Cost 3. Faragut's Order 4. Easy Rider 5. Powerhouse 6. Nitty Gritty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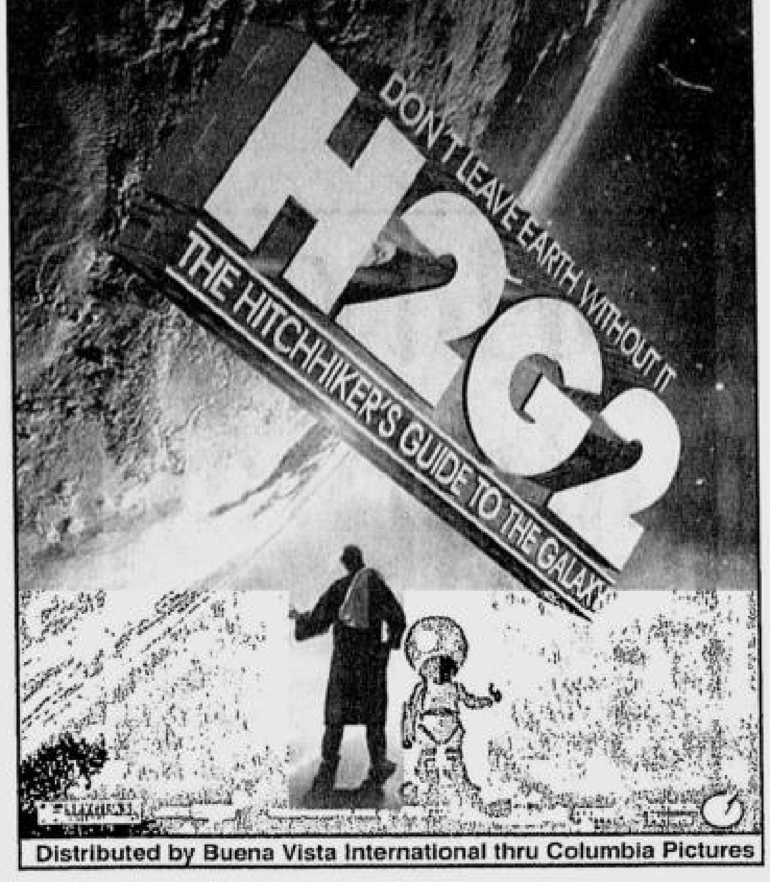
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1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
MONSTER IN LAW
1:25 / 4:05 / 6:45 / 9:25
HAPPILY EVER AFTER
1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:15 / 1:40 / 3:10 / 4:20
6:05 / 7:30 / 9:00 / 9:40

BATMAN BEGINS
1:00 / 3:50 / 6:40 / 9:30
NASAAN KA MAN
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
ADMISSION : P 299 / Globe Platinum Subscribers P249
WAR OF THE WORLDS
1:25 / 4:20 / 7:15 / 10:10

ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ HAPPILY EVER AFTER
12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
❷ WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:40 / 3:20 / 6:00 / 8:40
❸ BATMAN BEGINS
11:40 / 2:30 / 5:20 / 8:10
❹ NASAAN KA MAN
12:20 / 2:50 / 5:20 / 7:50
❺ MR & MRS SMITH
12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
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ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
July 1, Friday 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE- FINALS 4:45pm Red Bull vs Shell / 7:35pm Talk N Text vs San Miguel
ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN ATENEO - LA SALLE BASKETBALL CLASSIC July 2, Sat. 1pm & 3pm
July 3 Sunday 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE FINALS: GAME 2 6:40pm Talk N Text vs San Miguel
July 6, Wednesday 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE FINALS: GAME 3 7:30pm Talk N Text vs San Miguel

CENTER EVENTS
SALE | Mango Sale with up to 50% off on selected items ongoing until July 8 at the Upper Ground Floor of Gateway Mall
EXHIBIT | Herbie: Fully Loaded life-size replica on display from July 7 to 13 at the Gateway Cineplex 10 lobby
SPECIAL APPEARANCE | Neil Gaiman Book Signing on July 11, 4pm at Fully Booked on Level 2 of Gateway Mall

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3 (DOLBY) MONSTER IN LAW PG13
4 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS GP
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13

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2 (SDDS) WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 (DTS) WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 GOLD (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS
5 GOLD (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 GOLD SDDS) WAR OF THE WORLDS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) MONSTER IN LAW
8 MR. & MRS. SMITH
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10 NASAAN KAMAN

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4 HITCH HIKER'S GUIDE

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4 (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS

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2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS

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2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
4 BATMAN BEGINS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
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2 RESERVED
3 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 BATMAN BEGINS

METROPOLIS star
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1 LIBERATED - 2
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 BATMAN BEGINS

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2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 HAPPYLY EVER AFTER
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
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2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 RESERVED
4 HUBAD NA MULTO

Masagana CINEMA
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1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 BATMAN BEGINS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 (DTS EX) UNLEASHED
4 AMITYVILL HORROR

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 AMITYVILL HORROR
3 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 (DTS) UNLEASHED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 AMITYVILL HORROR
3 (DOLBY) A LOTE LIKE LOVE
4 (DTS) MR. & MRS. SMITH

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 NASAAN KAMAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) THE SIN
2 SUKDULAN
3 MOTEL
4 (DTS) PREMONITION

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 (DTS) PREMONITION
4 SUKDULAN
5 BATMAN BEGINS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 AMITYVILL HORROR
3 PREMONITION
4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 ALIPIN NG ALIW
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

World Grand Prix under way today

GAMES TODAY (Philsports)
5 p.m.—Cuba vs Thailand
7 p.m.—Italy vs Netherlands

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES will file a formal complaint to the FIVB World Grand Prix regarding the hostile behavior of the team manager and coach of the Netherlands team competing in the Grand Prix third leg starting today.

A top official of the host country said head coach Avital Selinger and team manager Ricardo Guimaraes have criticized, among other things, the alleged poor air-conditioning in the training venues like the Philsports—where the games will be held—and the La Salle Greenhills gym.

FIVB country representative Tats Suzara said he would file a formal report and complaint on how Selinger and Guimaraes, who is a Brazilian, ranted about the "hot" training venues, scheduling of games and practices, and what they claimed was the inefficiency of the event volunteers.

Suzara said Selinger also wanted the seats occupied by the local sportswriters to be given to the players during the press briefing last Wednesday.

"I told them that the media help a lot in making the sport popular in this country," Suzara told the INQUIRER. "As for their other complaint, the Philsports has been used for many years and we haven't encountered problems like this."

Suzara added that the officials from Cuba, Italy and Thailand didn't have any complaint about the schedule and the air-conditioning system in the venues.

The Netherlands squad, which is visiting the country for the first time, faces world champion Italy at 7 p.m. Cuba and Thailand collide at 5 p.m.

Expected to wow the crowd are Italians Valentina Fiorin, Jenny Barraza and Eleonora Lo Bianco, best setter during the 2002 world championships.

MIKASA
MIKASA
MIKASA
3
ROGER MARGALLO

DESIREE Hernandez of DLSU blocks Jinni Modejar of San Sebastian as Lady Archer Reiea Ferina Saet looks on.

Gonzales reclaims chess lead

STANDINGS AFTER ROUND 8
Gonzales 5.0; Antonio, Barbosa 4.5; Mariano, Paragua, Dableo, Sales, Dimakiling 4.0; Bitoon 2.5; De Ramos 2.0; Donguines 1.5.

INTERNATIONAL Master Jayson Gonzales regained solo leadership after beating Fide Master Fernie Donguines in the eighth round of the Men's Standard Chess Grand Finals yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Playing with the black pieces, Gonzales beat Donguines after 31 moves of a Queen's Pawn opening, giving the country's top scorer in last year's World Chess Olympiad 5.0 points. It was the second time Gonzales took the solo lead, the first coming in the opening round where he was the lone player to score the full point.

Sharing the spotlight was Grandmaster Joey Antonio, who scalped erstwhile solo leader National Master Oliver Barbosa in 65 moves of a Sicilian-Alapin opening.

Antonio's victory shoved him into a share of second spot with his victim at 4.5.

Another half-point back were GM Nelson Mariano II, IMs Mark Paragua and Ronald Dableo and FMs Jesse Noel Sales and the surging Oliver Dimakiling.

Dimakiling scored his third win in four rounds at the expense of Paragua, beating the latter after 44 moves of a Sicilian opening.

Dableo also boosted his chances to retain his spot in the national standard chess team after trouncing NM Julius De Ramos in 62 moves of an English opening.

Tigresses exact vengeance on Lady Archers

NOW they're even.

Finalist University of Santo Tomas rallied from two sets down to exact revenge on arch rival La Salle, 14-25, 18-25, 25-20, 25-21, 16-14, yesterday in a no-bearing match in the last day of the Shakey's V-League semifinals.

After bowing to the Lady Archers in two of their three previous meetings, the Tigresses are now coming into the finals with two victories against the defending champions and have the momentum to boot.

Roxanne Pimentel pummeled La Salle with 22 monstrous kills, while Mary Jean Balse came up with 16 points.

Earlier, San Sebastian cruised to a 25-20, 26-24, 28-26 victory over Ateneo de Manila University to chalk up its first win in six games in the two-year league.

The Lady Stags bounced back just in time to gain momentum toward the battle for third against their victims on July 4.

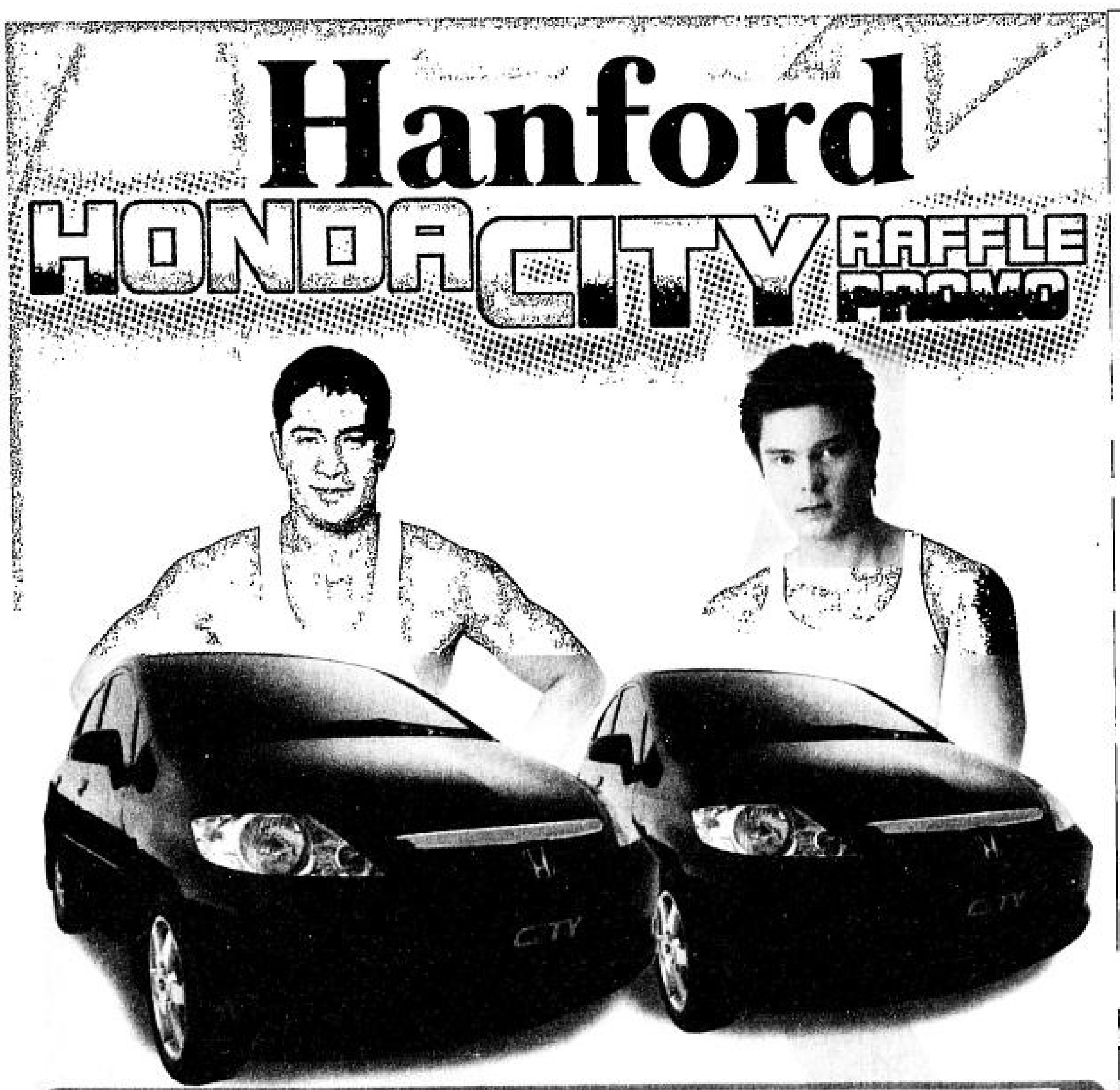
A stark contrast to its shaky semis stint, San Sebastian showed game-long ferocity, with veterans Cherry Rose Macatangay and Jennifer Bohawe leading the offense.

Macatangay, one of San Sebastian's reinforcements, scored a game-high 22 points, all but one coming from outright winners. National team standout Jennifer Bohawe chipped in 17 points, including 15 kills.

The Lady Stags duo's performance more than made up for the lack of contribution from the rest of the team, which combined for only 20 points.

Ateneo, at 2-4, groped for form most of the match, which lasted for one hour and 15 minutes.

Beach volley artist Michelle Laborte led the Lady Eagles with 12 points, while varsity standout Ma. Rosario Soriano added 11 points. *Karla Tricia Magno*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6. All sealed drop boxes with entries shall be sent to Mansfield Int'l, Inc. Head Office or collected by authorized personnel of Mansfield in every area 5 working days after the deadline of the dropping entries. The sealed drop boxes shall be brought to Mansfield office in Quezon City for safekeeping under the custody of Mansfield Marketing Manager and will be opened only in the presence of a DTI representative.

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3. A DTI representative will be invited for all the draws, at

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Schedule of Draws

	Deadline of Entries	Draw Dates
Minor Draw	Jul 15, 2005, Store Closing Hours	Jul 30, 2005 2pm
Minor Draw	Aug 15, 2005, Store Closing Hours	Aug 30, 2005 2pm
Major Draw	Sept 15, 2005, Store Closing Hours	Sept 30, 2005 2pm
Minor Draw	Oct 15, 2005, Store Closing Hours	Nov 2, 2005 2pm
Minor Draw	Nov 15, 2005, Store Closing Hours	Dec 1, 2005 2pm
Major Draw	Dec 15, 2005, Store Closing Hours	Jan 6, 2006 2pm

Prizes

Major Draws	One (1) winner of 2005 Honda City 1.3A MT One (1) winner of Sony DVD Entertainment System Three (3) winners of Next Base DVD Player Ten (10) winners of Hanford Gift Packs worth P1000 each
Minor Draws	Three (3) winners of Next Base DVD Player One (1) winner of Nokia 6600 Two (2) winners of Armani Shades Five (5) winners of Hanford Gift Packs worth P1000 each

HOW TO CLAIM
1. Winners must present the following documents: valid ID, registered notice and the other half of the coupon when claiming their prize. A representative may be sent, provided he/she brings all the requirements together with a valid ID, an authorization letter from the winner and ID card of the winner.
2. Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash or kind.
3. Winners of the Honda City shall pay the 20% winner's tax in excess of P10,000 and car's registration. Winners must present proof of tax payment before prizes are to be released.
4. Winners will be notified via registered notice.
5. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notice shall be forfeited in favor of Mansfield International, Inc. with prior approval of DTI.
6. GMA winners and the winners of the Honda City must claim their prizes at Mansfield International, Inc., 2/F Arete Square, Congressional Avenue, Project 8, Quezon City.
7. Prizes for provincial winners of the DVD Players, Nokia 6600 and Gift Packs shall be sent by courier, upon receipt and validation by Mansfield International, Inc. of the winning customers' required documents (as enumerated in #1).

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Dolphins, Blazers gun for 2-0 mark

GAMES TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
11:30 a.m.—St. Benilde vs Perpetual (Jrs)
2 p.m.—St. Benilde vs Perpetual (Srs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs SSC (Srs)
6 p.m.—PCU vs SSC (Jrs)

THE PHILIPPINE Christian U Dolphins will need a little more polish when they vie for a share of the lead against the San Sebastian Stags in the 81st NCAA season at 4 p.m. today at the Cuneta Astodome.

"The offense is there, but we have to play aggressive on the defensive end," said coach Junel Baculi after his debut win with the defending champions last Saturday.

New coach Caloy Garcia similarly had a good start with the St. Benilde Blazers, who will also gun for a second win against the University of Perpetual Help Altas at 2 p.m.

PCU and St. Benilde will try to join the Letran Knights and the Mapua Cardinals at 2-0.

The Blazers, the cellar-dwellers last year, clobbered the Jose Rizal Bombers, 79-47, in the league opener. Veterans Paolo Orbeta and Carlo Manding, together with rookies Christian Cabatu and Martin Urra, all finished in double figures.

But Garcia pointed out that the easy win wasn't an indication of the team's improvement.

"It was just the first game of the season," he said. "Teams will try to adjust. For now, we have to stay focused, follow our game plan. Every game is a tough assignment, a test for us."

PCU, too, cruised in the opener with a 68-50 stomping of the San Beda Lions. Although the Dolphins missed the offensive spark of Robert Sanz and Gabby Espinas, Jason Castro and Beau Belga assumed the roles as team leaders.

Belga, who was seldom used last year, surprisingly led the Dolphins to an early double-digit advantage. The 6-foot-5 center finished with 15 points and eight rebounds.

"He's only 18 years old and he's very quick for his height," noted Baculi.

Jason Castro topscored with 16 points, while playmaker Ramon Retaga Jr. added 10 markers.

Although San Sebastian lost to Mapua, 81-70, Baculi will still keep an eye on its senior forward Leo Najorda.

"He just came from a very good series in the PBL," he said.

The Blazers must also check Altas forward Conrad Bauzon, who delivered 25 points in Perpetual's 63-54 loss against the Letran Knights. *Jasmine W. Payo*

FROM left Macky Carapiet, FIM UAM Motocross Commission president, Jerick Mitra (65 cc first place overall), Glenn Aguilar, (first place overall 125 cc) and Chong Coc Veng, president Automovel Club de Macau.

Aguilar, Mitra shine

MACAU—NAMSSA-PHILIPPINE Team ace rider Glenn Aguilar rocketed his way to a big comeback in the final heat to rule the rain-drenched third round of the 2005 FIM Asian Motocross Championship here Sunday.

With the win, the Revtex Rocket moved on top of the premiere Asian 125 cc title race with 132 points and is now on track to regain the crown he won in 2003.

Jean Erick Mitra, an 8-year-old student of Metropolitan Academy of Manila, claimed the biggest win of his budding racing career when he delivered a convincing victory in the Asian Junior 65cc event for the Namssa-Philippine Team supported by Air Macau and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Mitra put up a good fight against Guam's Anthony Peter Ignacio and Troy Corpuz by finishing first and second in the motos to garner 47 points and claim the title.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIR
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ERRATUM

The UPMG (United Print Media Group) Special Screening of the "War of the Worlds" will be at Glorietta 4, Cinema 3, today at 7:30 p.m.

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ 'Extra Challenge' in Hong Kong /A2-3
INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Maricel waives increase to support ABS-CBN

By Nini Valera

MARICEL Soriano has waived the yearly 20 percent increase stipulated in her talent contract with ABS-CBN to show her support for the network, which has implemented cost-cutting measures to stave off losses during the first quarter of this year.

Maricel's manager, Wyngard Tracy, told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview on Wednesday that he volunteered not to take this year's increase during a meeting for the actress' new TV series "Vietnam Rose."

"ABS-CBN has been supportive of Maricel for so many years," Tracy said. "It's the least we could do, especially after Gabby Lopez appeared on TV saying that the network has been losing money."

But Tracy clarified that it was not a pay cut. "We just really believe in the project," he explained. "At this point, we should be helping each other."

Rumors

Rumors earlier circulated that ABS-CBN had asked Dolphy to take a pay cut in the midst of the network's financial woes.

Dolor Gueverra, Dolphy's aide, has denied this.

Guevarra told INQUIRER Entertainment by phone on Monday night that Dolphy had, in fact, just signed a new contract with the network for the sitcom "Quizon Avenue," which also stars the comedian's sons Eric, Eppie and Vandolph.

Officially, Eric Quizon is Dolphy's manager. But INQUIRER Entertainment could not reach Eric.

ABS-CBN's Linggit Tan, business unit head for "OK Fine... Whatever," "Quizon Avenue," "Goin' Bulilit" and "Big Brother," said that management's cost-cutting measures have not affected stars' talent fees.

"Management would tell me if there is (such an order)," Tan told INQUIRER Entertainment also on Monday. "But if the stars offer to take pay cuts, why not?"

One-year contracts

Talent contracts with ABS-CBN are usually for one year, except for a few. Kris Aquino has a two-year contract, according to her manager Deo Endrinal.

"So far, there have been no changes," Endrinal told INQUIRER.

Boy Abunda, who manages Ai-Ai de las Alas, said network management had not talked to him about slashing the comedian's salary.

"In fact, she has a new show and just signed a new contract," Abunda said.

Abunda, also one of the network's biggest talents, said he himself had not been asked to take a pay cut.

"So far, everything is... as is," Abunda said.

Aga Muhlach's manager, Ethel Ramos, said they had not been asked either. Aga also has a one-year contract, said Ramos, not 10 years as rumored.

The network's big talents have a monthly take-home pay of as much as P1.2 million, according to one of the managers.

Talent manager Arnold Vegafria, who has four artists with ABS-CBN, expressed confidence that the network would not renegotiate his talents' contracts.

"I have not received word from them," Vegafria told INQUIRER.

On Tuesday, talent Edu Manzano also told INQUIRER that he had not been asked to take a lower fee.

How news broke

The rumors started when ABS-CBN began offering early retirement packages to its regular employees in the news and public affairs division, according to Manzano. *(See related story on Page A2-4.)*

The biggest expense of the network is on the stars' salaries, and these astronomical fees should be controlled, a talent manager who requested anonymity observed.

"Production costs are already very high," the manager said. "Stars should sacrifice in order for the shows to stay viable."

But director Joey Reyes, head writer for two shows on ABS-CBN, told INQUIRER that the network had not made a move to reduce talent fees either for directors and writers.

"The streamlining affected only the news and public affairs division," he said. "It's not a massacre... it's not a case of 500 heads rolling. Regular employees in the news and public affairs were offered attractive retirement packages. Most of them accepted."

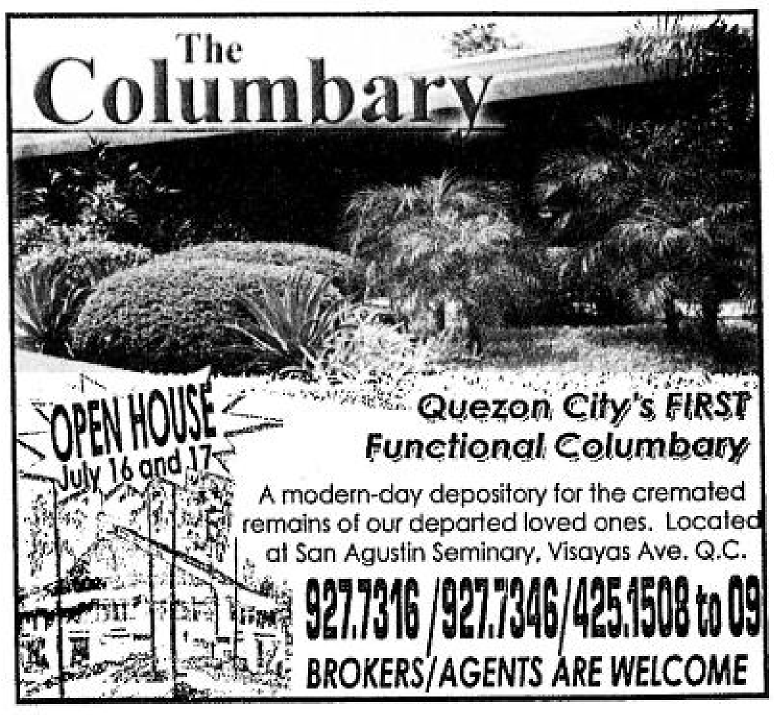
Reyes added that the early retirement package had been on the pipeline as early as January this year and did not come as a surprise to the affected employees.

Rift does not affect Tavern

TAVERN on the Square Bar and Restaurant has no connection with the rift between the band Freestyle and its former male vocalist Top Suzara, according to Wyngard Tracy, the band's talent manager and part-owner of the establishment.

An article on Top's resignation from the band came out in INQUIRER Entertainment on June 29. The story was titled "Trouble at the Tavern."

Top formally announced his decision to quit as lead male vocalist of Freestyle on April 25 at the Tavern, in Greenbelt, Makati City.



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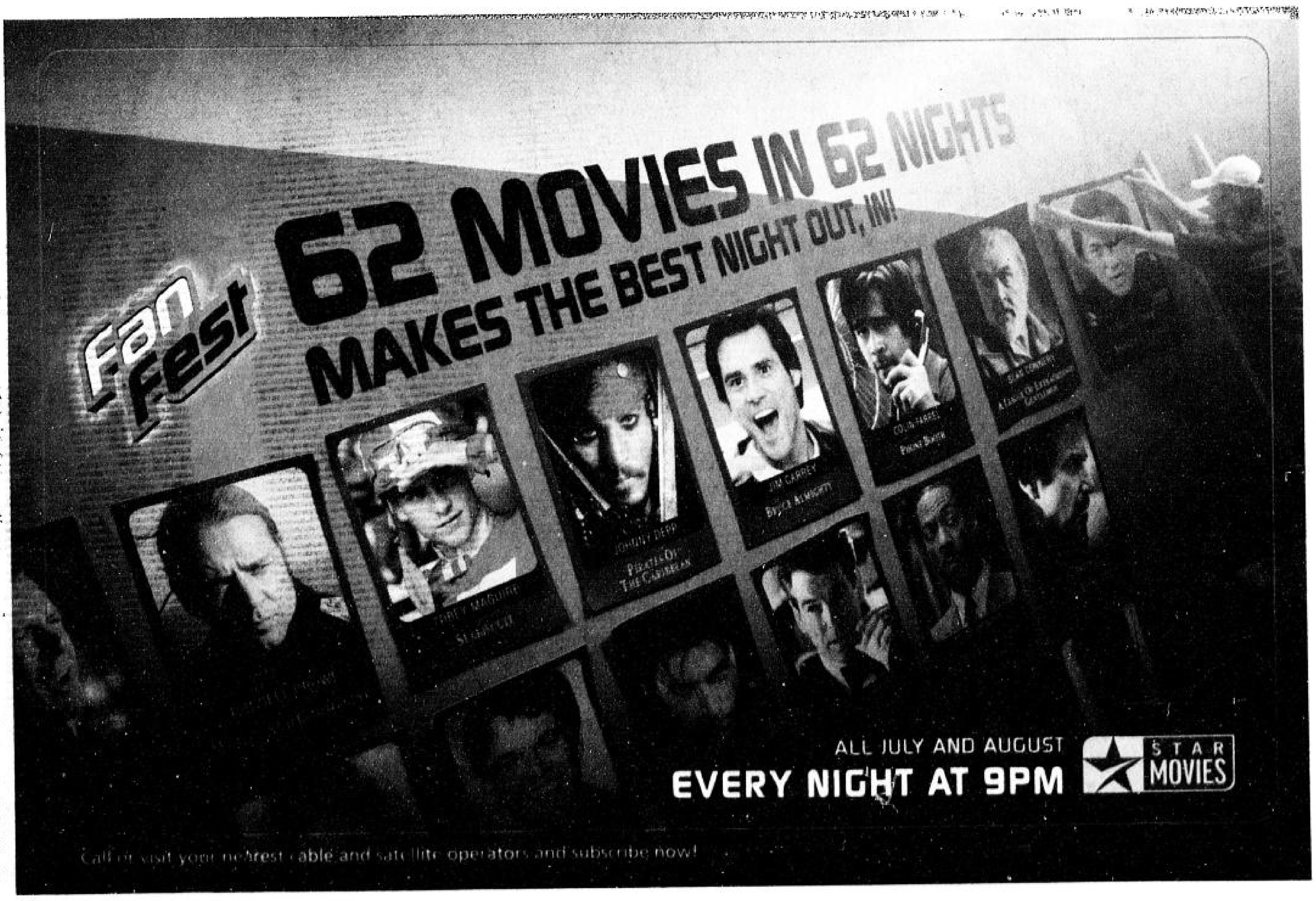

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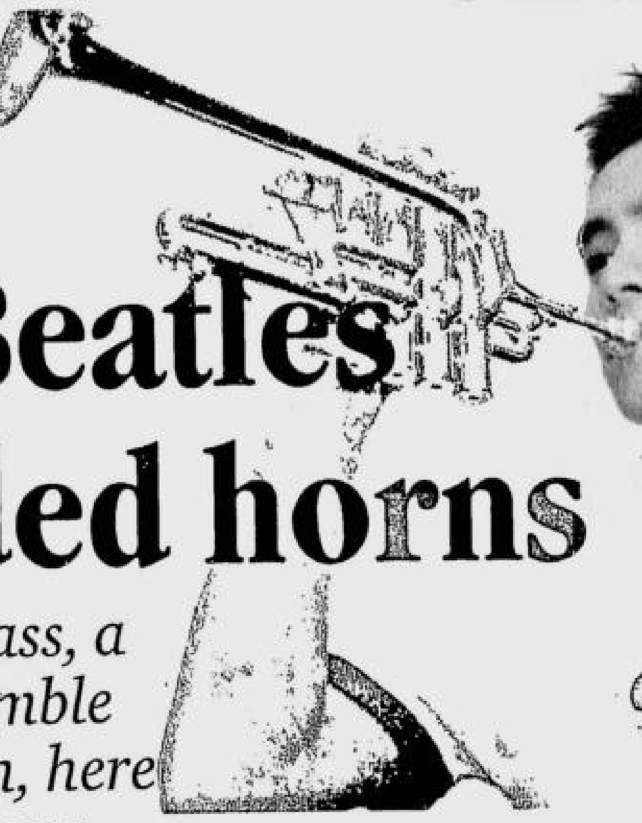
Even the Beatles needed horns

Imperial Brass, a college ensemble from Britain, here for fund raisers


PINOY trumpeter Alaric Saludo

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

IT'S ALWAYS a delight to hear bands with horn arrangements in their music.

Even the biggest of them all, the Beatles, put some brass in "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band"—anked by some critics as the greatest popular music album of all time with its marriage of classical and rock.

Wide range

But how 'bout an all-brass band, one that also comes from Britain, whose members are all very young, with musical tastes ranging from orchestral to big band jazz?

It's hard to understand their Cockney accents, but easy to fall for the energy and charm of the members of the Imperial Brass Band, a college ensemble consisting of trumpet, trombone, tuba and French horn players—including a 21-year-old Filipino, Alaric Saludo.

Most of the band members are aspiring doctors, scientists or mathematicians who are also serious music students. They all met at Imperial College and a neighboring school, the Royal College of Music. (Imperial is a leading science and technology institute in London; Royal College is one of four major music conservatories.)

Formed three years ago, Imperial Brass has performed in various occasions—from weddings to concerts at the park to building inaugurations, at one time with the Queen in attendance. Its biggest gig to date was at the Royal Albert Hall.

The band is in Manila for a series of fund-raisers.

Over lunch at Fil's restaurant at the Fort Bonifacio Global City, chef Ed Quimson explained to the visiting Britons what *lumpia, sinigang na hipon* and *tinolang manok* were.

Seated at our table were trombonist Louise Oakes and trumpeter Daniel Burchette. We talked shop while Oakes waited for the chef to whip up a vegetarian fare.

How do they define their music?

Oakes: "It's a wide range of different styles because we come from different backgrounds. We're very much into orchestral music, although we also like big band and jazz."

Most enjoyable

Why brass music?

Burchette: "It's the most enjoyable form, at least for us."

Glancing at the band's biographical notes, it's understandable why they enjoy what they do.

Burchette, 21, is studying medicine at Imperial but has been playing the trumpet since age 9. He became a member of various school ensembles and, in his final high school year, won the Young Musician of the Year contest, including Best Stage Presentation. He has played in Italy, France and Cyprus. Last year he toured the United States as the trumpet soloist of the Imperial College Medics Society.

A euphonium?

Oakes is a third year Physics major at Imperial and also studying trombone at the Royal College of Music. She started playing the instrument at age 10 and was the principal trombonist of several country music ensembles in Northamptonshire. Since moving to London, Oakes has performed in many concerts with the Royal College of Music Symphony Orchestra. In addition to the tenor trombone, she doubles on alto trombone, bass trumpet and euphonium.

Frankly, we didn't know there was such a thing as a tenor trombone or a bass trumpet, much less an idea what a euphonium looks like.

But these guys blow brass as if they intend to keep playing it—to paraphrase the Beatles—even when they're 64.

(The Imperial Brass Band performs 6 tonight at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong and 6 p.m. tomorrow at the Philamlife Auditorium, UN Ave. Manila. Call 895-0406.)

Difference in tone and treatment

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ON RECENT trips to China and Japan, we were able to compare the TV programming in those Asian countries with the shows on view on Philippine screens.

The most immediately noticeable difference is that of tone and treatment, especially when it comes to news and public affairs programs. In the Philippines, the race for ratings has led to the infusion of "entertainment" elements into these traditionally less show biz-y program formats.

Filipino newscasters no longer simply report the news, they try to make it more dramatic, melodramatic, colorful and even comic, by way of vocal flourishes and occasional subjective reactions.

These, in turn, are further jazzed up by the heavy use of background music, stingers, hyped-up visuals, spicy sound bites, and an inordinate number of crime, scandal and show biz stories.

Those excesses were happily absent from the newscasts we viewed on Chinese and Japanese television, which gratified us because they were able to restore the correct, objective focus to TV news reportage and discussion that we had been missing on Philippine screens.

More culture

We also noted the greater number of Japanese and Chinese TV programs that were devoted to the coverage of traditional and modern cultural issues and activities. We again found this gratifying, because it showed that television needn't limit itself to ga-ga entertainment, and can also sustain viewers' interest and involvement with shows that address their more enlightened concerns.

Contrastingly, only a few TV shows in the Philippines do this, since the intense competition here for ratings and revenues has led to the decline of cultural programming, in favor of more profitable show biz-oriented shows that cater to the least common denominator of viewership.

Instructively, while we did catch some loud and lively game and variety shows on Japanese and Chinese TV screens, there were no corollaries on the noontime slot to the slam-bang, sexy variety and game programs that are telecast here.

Neither were there Chinese or Japanese versions of the overlong evening *telenovela* programming that now obtains on Philippine TV. In Japan and China, TV people still believe that variety is the spice of televiewing life, unlike here, where viewers are served up pretty much the same melodramatic kind of entertainment for hours on end.

More kiddie shows

Finally, we noted that Chinese and Japanese TV features more children's programs than we do—a testament to those countries' TV people's greater appreciation of their duty to be of positive service to young viewers.

These perceived programming differences could also be the result of more committed supervision of the TV scene by those countries' government offices charged with making sure that television lives up to its commitment to provide balanced and responsible programming. Would that their counterparts in the Philippines were as proactive in their supervision.

Feedback

FROM REP. **Francis L. Nepomuceno**: "We have urged Microsoft, Yahoo and Google to help the government in the fight against Internet pornography. In China, Microsoft, Yahoo and Google blocked pornographic contents in the Internet, and these could no longer be accessed by surfers.

"A code of conduct and self-censorship is followed by the Internet sites in China on any information that is pornographic or illegal. The blockade of porno Internet sites is a step in the right direction and can help ease the pain of the world community, which is the dumping ground of the $10 billion porno industry.

"If porn can be stopped this way in our neighboring country, I urge Microsoft, Yahoo and Google to replicate their efforts in the Philippines.

"It would be commendable if the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. will join in blocking porno in the Internet. The PLDT vibe and DSL have gained acceptance in the country because they provide easy access to the Internet at minimum cost.

"It is unfortunate that the Philippines is featured to be a cybersex capital victimizing minors. Poverty, ignorance and distorted values drive girls to be lured into the illicit cybersex trade, which can be accessed through the Internet..."

Monster Radio rock acts in concert

ON JULY 15, RX 93.1 and Cotton USA present four acts that Monster Radio has helped popularize in a concert at Le Pavilion on Roxas blvd. Titled "Rock to School—The Special Concert," the show celebrates the resurgence of Philippine rock, with full-set performances by **Bamboo, Kitchie Nadal, Sponge Cola** and **Session Road**.

To score tickets, rock fans simply have to buy Cotton USA apparel at participating SM department stores. Raffle prizes include Nokia 6630s, Canon Digital IXUS 40 cameras, Ipod Minis, Playstation Portables and gift certificates.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE

LIVE 8 ABC

WORLD'S BIGGEST CONCERT, SATURDAY 10 PM

20 years after the biggest performers in the world gathered to "feed the world" on Live Aid, a monumental concert is set to happen in London, Rome, Paris, Berlin and Philadelphia to call on world leaders at the coming G8 Summit to end poverty globally!

"LIVE 8" features stars like Bob Geldof, U2, Madonna, Mariah Carey, Coldplay, Dido, Keane, Elton John, Annie Lennox, Paul McCartney, Sting, REM, Joss Stone, The Cure, A-Ha, Will Smith, Maroon 5, Jon Bon Jovi, P. Diddy, 50 Cent, Jay -Z, Andrea Bocelli and more!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Showbiz No. 1	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Opids	TV Patrol World		Meteor Garden Full Edition	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Oh! Feel Young	24			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Mutya 6/10: The Real Story		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	Tenjho Tenge	Shaman King	Flame Of Recca	Full House	24 Oras		Darna		Encantadia	Extra Challenge		TBA	Bubble Gang			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Krusada Kontra Kamen		The Insider	NBA On RPN					The OC		Newswatch Now	Tough Crowd		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Shakey's V-League				Sunstar 9-Ball Challenge			IBC News Tonite	GMA The Working President	
JackTV	The Sib Show	Samurai Jack	The Batman	WWE Smackdown				Sweat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Joe Schmo Show						Worst Case Scenario	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX	MYX Firsts	Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	My MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Club MYX	Star MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	Significant Others	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Studio 23						X-Men Evolution	Spiderman	The Batman	Justice League	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights				News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
AXN						Worst Case Scenario		The Associates		Alias (Season III)		WRC 2005: Rally XS	E Buzz	Andromeda (Season IV)					
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		Totally Outrageous Behavior	Weird TV	Angel		Friends	Totally Outrageous Behavior
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
National Geographic		Pharaoh's Week		Battle Of The X-Planes				Wildlife Detectives	Insects From Hell	Wow		About Asia		Nat Geographic Specials		Day Of The Jackal		Wild Dogs Bring Back	
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Revealed With Jules Asner		It's Good To Be	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate		Alfie	
HBO				Motives (4.15PM)			Blankman (5.40PM)			Ripley's Game (7.15PM)				Legends of the Fall				Freddy vs. Jason (11.10PM)	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Static Shock	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	Zoids Fusors	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Time Squad	Thundercats	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman
ESPN		U.S. Open Golf C'ship Pinehurst, NC USA Final								U.S. Open Golf Championship		Sportscenter Asia	World Pool League '04 Warsaw, Poland		Major League Baseball				
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Moms On Strike			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Muppet Treasure Island	
Cinemax		A Thief Of Time (3:15PM)				48 Hrs.			The Bourne Identity (6.45PM)					Demolition Man				No Way Up (10.55PM)	
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Judging Amy		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B Eye		Judging Amy					Wife Swap (10.35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B Eye
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Stormproof: Saving Our Crumbling Coastlines		Monster Garage		American Chopper		Wolf Battlefields		Extraordinary Experiences: We Built This City: London		Crime Night	
MTV Philippines			Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Get Spotted		MTV Classic (Ver 2)		ITVNN: They Wanted A Famous Face	MTV Dives		Newlyweds	Wanna Come In	Faking the Video	Laguna Beach	On Board at MTV	MTV Screen	VH1 Video Collection	
Sports Plus											Tour De France	Monster Jam				Tour De France			Cialis Western Open Day1

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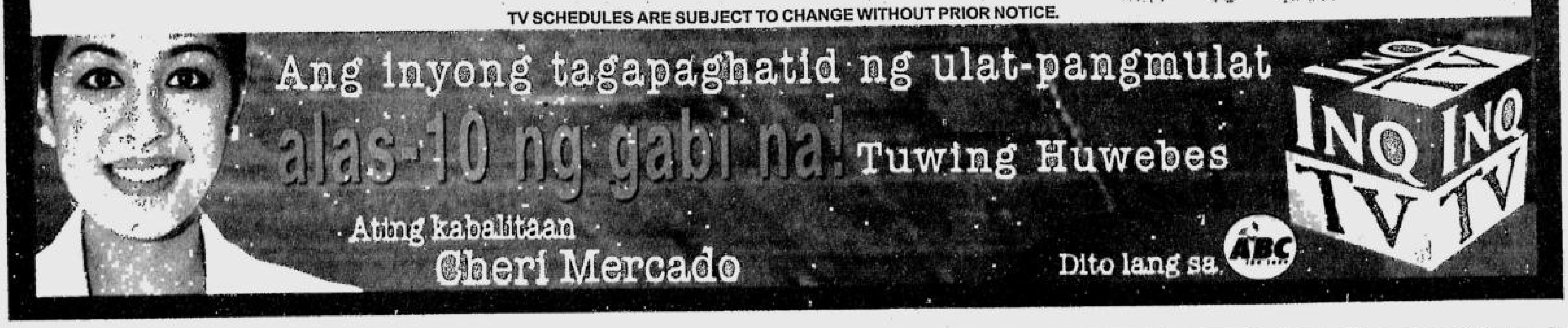
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extra challenge
INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

"WE THOUGHT of postponing, but we just carried on no matter how bad the weather was because, after all, we're a reality show," says Paolo.

AWARDING of winners on board the Jumbo Floating Restaurant with guest co-host Miriam Quiambao-Rondineli

CHALLENGE No. 8. Contestants try to convince as many locals on Cheung Chau Island to sing Chinese songs while eating *polvoron*.

'Dagundong' in Hong Kong

Strong winds and heavy rains could not stop the latest 'Extra Challenge' series

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Erik G. Arazas

HONG KONG—The shooting of GMA 7's top-rating reality show "Extra Challenge" here very nearly got rescheduled because of strong winds and heavy rains.

"We thought of postponing, to ensure the safety of the crew," the show's host, Paolo Bediones, told INQUIRER Entertainment during a lull on the first taping day. "But we just carried on no matter how bad the weather was because, after all, we're a reality show."

The series, titled "Dagundong sa Hong Kong," features celebrity moms and their daughters—Janice de Belen and Inah Estrada, Liezl and Alyanna Martinez and Snooky Serna and Samantha Serna Go.

"Dagundong" was shot here from June 21 to 23 in popular areas like Mong Kok, Knotsford Terrace in Tsim Sha Tsui, as well as at the Cheung Po Tsai Cave in the Cheung Chau Island.

To produce the series, "Extra Challenge" tied up with the Hong Kong Tourism Board, which sponsored food and hotel accommodations for the whole crew, explained program manager Margie Cabanayan.

HKTB, led by corporate communications and public relations executive Alice Li, also helped secure permits for the challengers, said Cabanayan. Hong Kong tour coordinators Michael Poon, Denny Ip, Fredric Cheung and Michael Kan, assisted the crew on the job.

"We wanted to deliver HKTB's requirement—a great show with great visuals of their city. We also wanted the challengers to stick to the schedule," said Paolo. "We all wanted to go home with smiles on our faces."

The whole staff did go home smiling. Because the weather improved, the challengers managed to hurdle all 12 challenges during their three-day stay. "These are all family-oriented challenges," said Cabanayan. "HKTB suggested including the 'Shopper of the Year' challenge to promote the territory's Shopping Festival [which runs from June 25 to Aug. 31]."

"I really don't have that competitive spirit," said Janice, who placed second to the Martinez team during the shopping challenge on the first day at the Ladies' Market in Mong Kok. "We plan to do just one thing—to finish. Inah and I will just have fun. We promised each other not to fight."

"How did they know that I was scared of snakes? That was the most difficult for me," said Liezl. One challenge required the mommies to get as many Lego blocks from a cage filled with cobras at the Snake Shop in Sham Shui Po. The daughters were made to eat lizard/snake soup.

Snooky, whose team finished last in most of the challenges, said her favorite was the wall-climbing activity at the YMCA King's Park Centenary Center on the second day. "The goal was to retrieve the highest flag mounted on the wall. I'm so proud because I was the only mom who reached the top flag," she said.

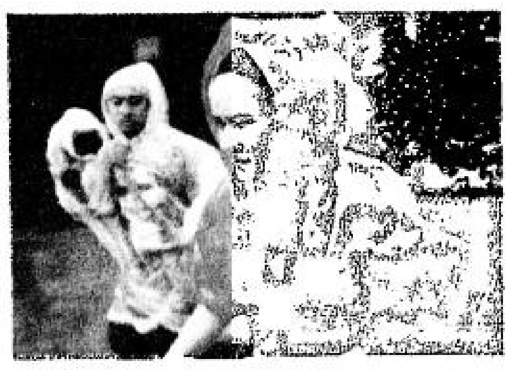
Earlier that day, Snooky had a long argument with Cabanayan about being asked to perform the challenges in the heavy rain. But the disagreement was settled quickly.

"The reason this show is No. 1, is our working relationship," said Paolo. "We're like family. Once in a while, we have arguments, petty quarrels. But at the end of the day, we go home to the same hotel, hang out in each other's rooms, talk about the day's events. No job is perfect. There'll be always snags. But when the challenges are done, we come back to Manila, look at the pictures, and work again."

CHALLENGE No. 2. Mother and daughter are sent to buy 10 items with only HK$500. Paolo Bediones inspects the goods.

CAMERAMAN Oliver Bongat looks after his tired subjects.

CHALLENGE No. 3. The ladies deliver stuff they bought in Kowloon to a Chinese family living on the Hong Kong side.

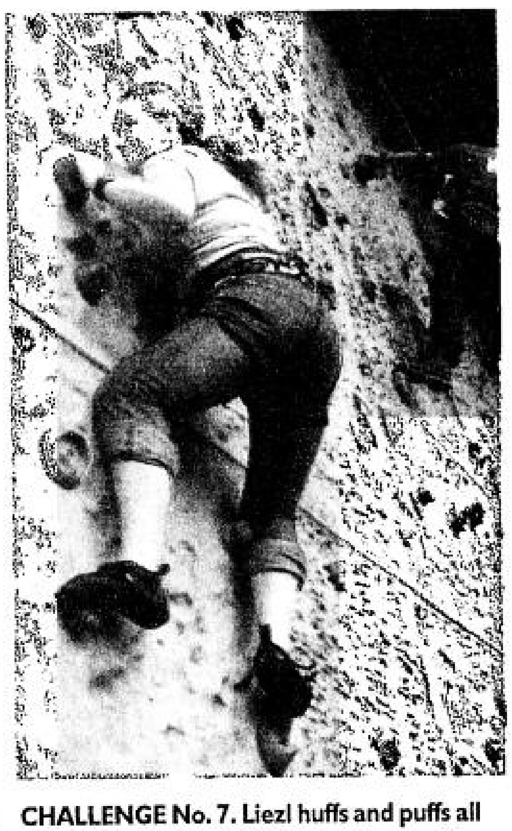


CHALLENGE No. 4. Liezl looks for clues at the Hong Kong Park. Cameraman Ruel Galero captures her every move.

"EXTRA Challenge" crew with members of the Hong Kong Tourism Board

SNOOKY and Sam go for it.

JANICE and Czarinah



CHALLENGE No. 7. Liezl huffs and puffs all the way to the top of YMCA's tallest wall.

CHALLENGE No. 1. Liezl and Alyanna look for clues scattered all over the famous Avenue of Stars

PAOLO "modifies" Ethel Booba's tight-fitting cheongsam, then the two hosts rest while waiting for the challengers to arrive at the Heaven on Earth restaurant in Tsim Sha Tsui.

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09:05LFS/09:40LMF/11:40END
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
11:40FS/12:10MF/02:45/05:20
09:55LFS/10:30LMF/12:30END

megamall 633-1901
WAR OF THE WORLDS
10:40FS/11:10MF/01:40/04:10/06:40
08:40LFS/09:10LMF/11:10END

cebu (032) 231-3876
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
11:40FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:40/07:05
09:05LFS/09:30LFS/11:30END
2 BATMAN BEGINS
11:30FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00
09:20LFS/09:30LMF/11:50END
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
11:40FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:40/07:05
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END

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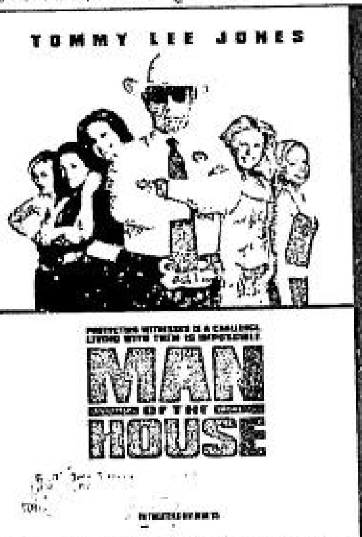

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4 BATMAN BEGINS
5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
8 MONSTER-IN-LAW
9 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
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11 NASAAN KA MAN
12 HOTEL RWANDA

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12 PREMONITION

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2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
3 BATMAN BEGINS
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5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
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7 NASAAN KA MAN
8 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
9 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
10 HOTEL RWANDA

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2 ICE PRINCESS
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 MONSTER-IN-LAW
6 SHUTTER
7 MR. & MRS. SMITH
8 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
9 NASAAN KA MAN
10 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

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2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 BATMAN BEGINS
5 MONSTER-IN-LAW
6 WAR OF THE WORLDS
7 HOTEL RWANDA
8 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
9 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
10 HOUSE OF WAX
11 SHUTTER
12 NASAAN KA MAN

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2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

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3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

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2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

LUZON

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2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 BATMAN BEGINS
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6 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

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2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 BATMAN BEGINS
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4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
4 BATMAN BEGINS

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2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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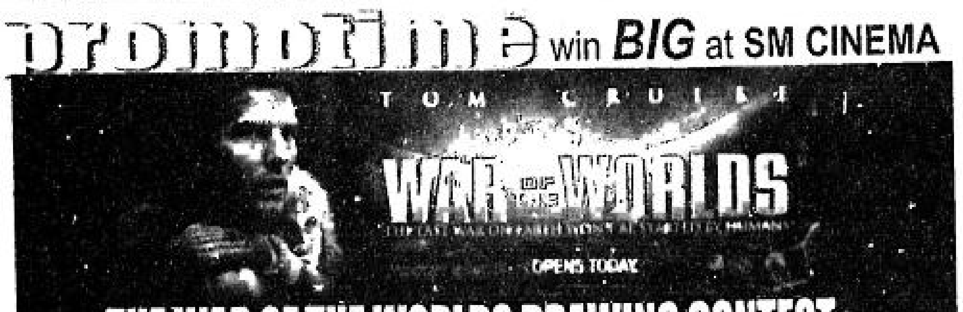

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Erwin Tulfo clarifies status with network

By Nini Valera

"PEOPLE will see me on ABS-CBN for many years to come."

Erwin Tulfo, ABS-CBN anchor for "Magandang Gabi Bayan," made this declaration to INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview on Monday, even as he confirmed reports that he was asked by the network to retire as a regular employee.

Tulfo said he accepted the retirement package of three months severance pay for every year of service that management offered a number of its employees. He has been a regular reporter of ABS-CBN for nine years.

But Tulfo clarified that the station had not booted out high-profile news personalities like himself, including Pia Hontiveros and vice president Jake Madarazo.

He explained that management merely asked them to retire from their regular jobs as reporters.

"We were all retained as anchor persons," said Tulfo.

Hontiveros will still anchor ANC's weekend news program, and Madarazo retains his radio program over dzMM.

More money

"I have not been doing reportorial work for sometime now," he said.

Most news anchors, like Ted Failon and Dong Puno, are talents who are paid per show, according to Tulfo.

"As a talent, I make four times more than my salary as a reporter," Tulfo said.

The downside is that talents do not enjoy benefits like insurance and medical coverage, he said.

Tulfo said management resorted to the retirement package to avoid giving double compensation to regular employees who also get paid as talents.

So far, about 35 staff members of the news division have been offered the package. Other key production personnel, like in-house directors, would soon get the same offer, said Tulfo.

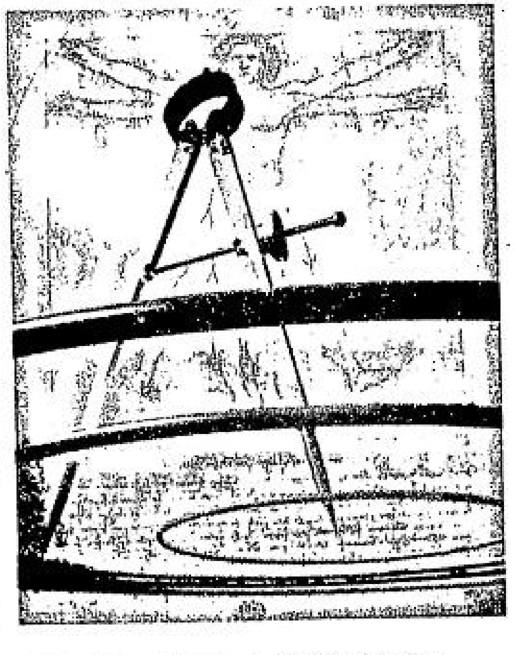
Still fair

"Which is still fair," he noted, "because the directors get separate fees for every show they direct."

In any case, the network "did not tell us to go away."

ABS-CBN is set to open new shows this month. Tulfo said the same pool of talents would most likely be hired.

He has received offers from Channels 5 and 7, he said, but "I've decided to stick it out here."



DECODING DA VINCI
WAS Mary Magdalene the wife of Jesus? Are descendants of Christ's holy family still alive? A supposed secret society, said to have included Leonardo Da Vinci and Sir Isaac Newton, allegedly knew and protected this extraordinary secret for centuries. Could Leonardo have hidden clues about this in his paintings? Featuring never seen before interview footage from "The Da Vinci Code" author Dan Brown, a two-hour special on the National Geographic Channel tonight at 10 will explore the phenomenon that his book has inspired.

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1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
MTRCB. PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
3 MONSTER IN LAW
MTRCB. PG-13
11:35, 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:15
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
MTRCB. PG-13
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
4 BATMAN BEGINS
MTRCB. GP
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
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GP
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
11:40, 2:20, 5:00
7:40, 10:20
PG-13
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:20, 3:00, 5:40
8:20, 11:00
PG-13
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
12:20, 2:55, 5:30
8:05, 10:40
PG-13

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WAR OF THE WORLDS
PG13
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WAR OF THE WORLDS
PG13
12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30

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starmall EDSA-SHAW
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4 War of the Worlds
5 Batman Begins
P75 Lang Dolby Digital Pa!
Experience @ Starmall Edsa 4 & 5
And Metropolis Alabang 5
METROPOLIS star ALABANG
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2 Happily Ever After
3 Under Renovation
4 Under Renovation
5 War of the Worlds
6 Batman Begins
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JULY 1 & 2 RICO with the K 9PM
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Oops, wrong question!

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—Guess what happened when I interviewed a Hollywood actor recently linked to a Filipina?

I wanted to ask the actor if he was still in touch with this Pinay. But I wasn't sure I should. It was going to be my first time to interview the actor. I didn't know if he was the type who would welcome my question about his former girlfriend (contrary to what some people think, this couple never married).

On my way to the men's room before the press con, I saw the actor sitting in the hotel hallway. I grabbed the opportunity to introduce myself. "Mr. (name of actor), I am from the Philippines," I said. "May I ask you about (Filipina's name) at the press con?"

Mr. Actor frowned. Looking at me in the eye, he said tersely, "I hate (Pinay's name)!" Oops! I guess that meant I couldn't ask my question. Was I glad that I saw him in the hallway. I was to ask the first question in the press con. I would have ruined the actor's mood for the rest of the session.

During the interview, when I stood up, the actor sort of held his breath. Of course, I asked a different question. Later, a colleague quipped that I should have asked my original question just the same. "That would have made for a very interesting afternoon," this peer said, laughing heartily.

I wonder what happened between Mr. Actor and the Filipina beauty?

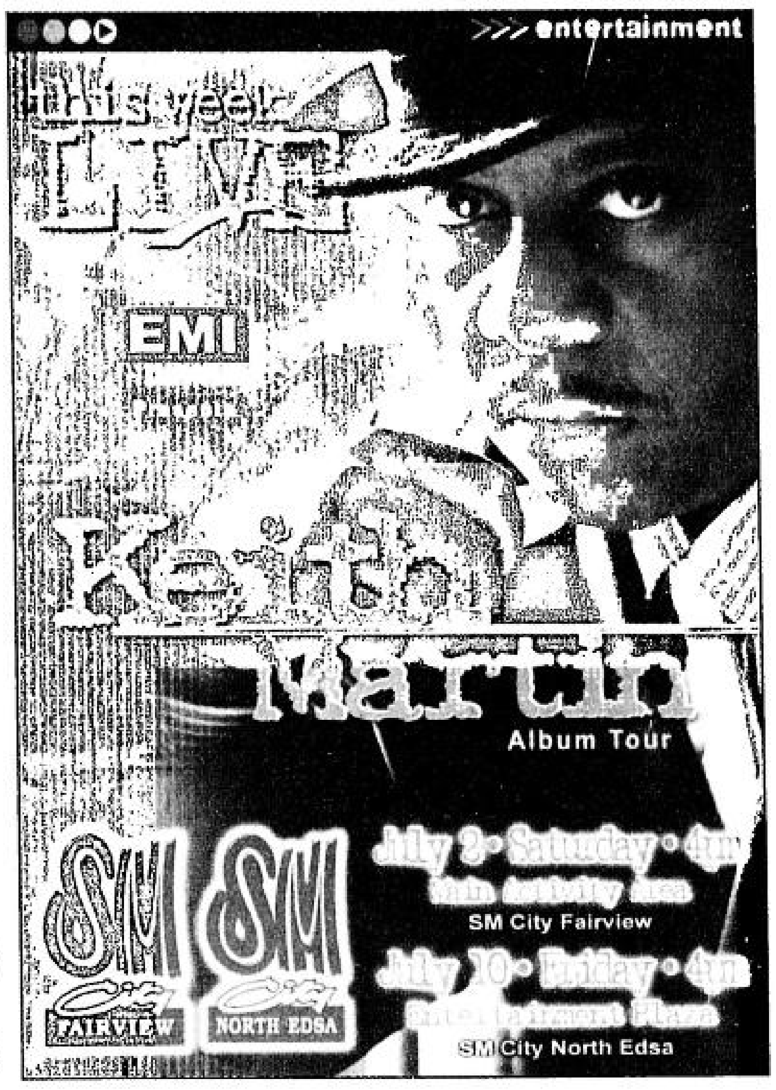
Coincidence

Filipino-American Dean Devlin, the man behind the blockbusters "Independence Day" and "The Patriot," is next producing a World War I action-drama, "Flyboys." Dean reportedly raised $60 million on his own to make the film about a group of American "flyboys" who joined the French Army.

Dean tapped James Franco as the leading

OOPS/ A3-4

DID Michael Jackson actually sire his children?


>>> entertainment
this week LIVE
EMI
Keith Martin
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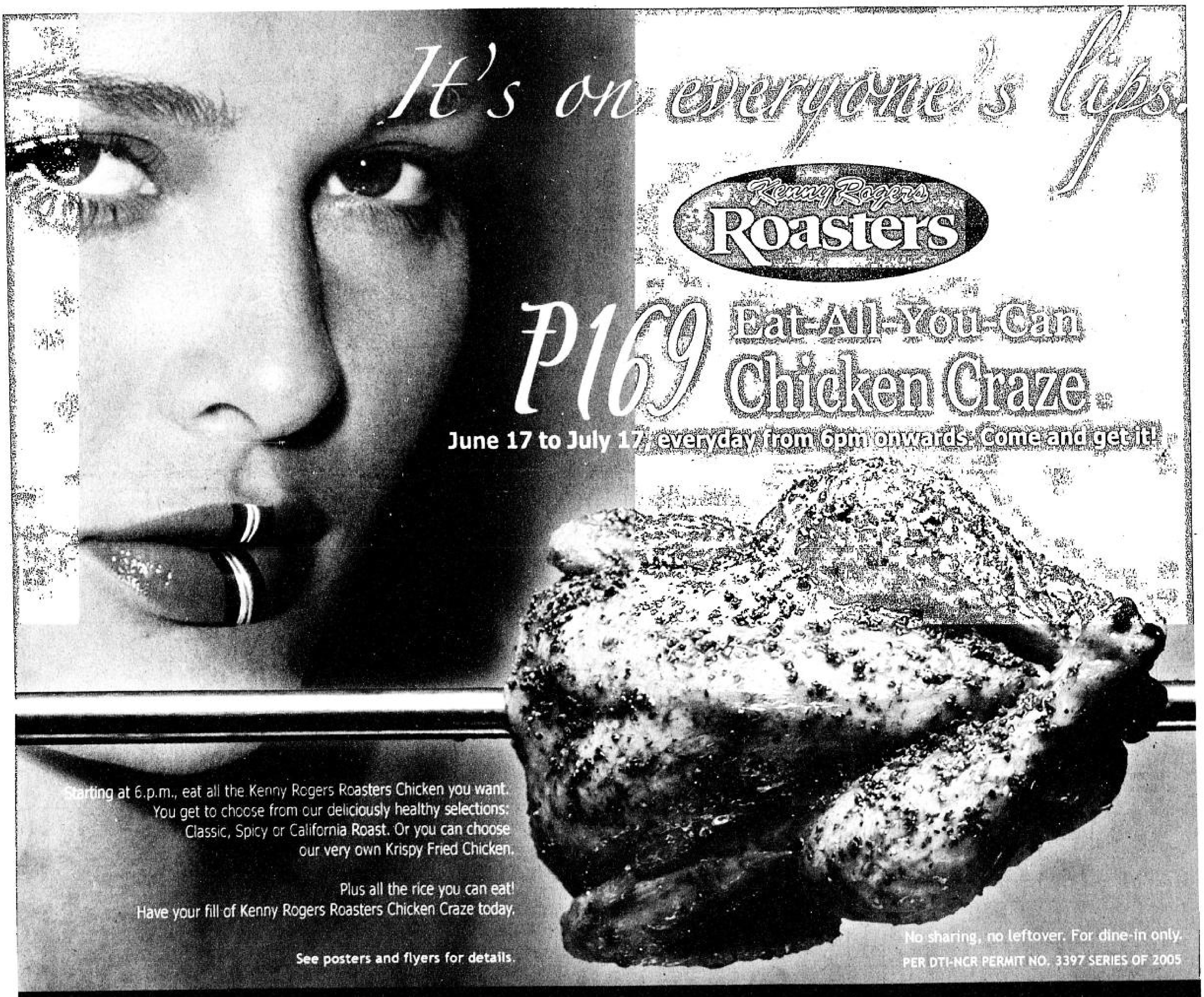
SM City Fairview
SM City North Edsa
July 2 • Saturday • 4pm
Main Activity Area
SM City Fairview
July 10 • Friday • 4pm
Entertainment Plaza
SM City North Edsa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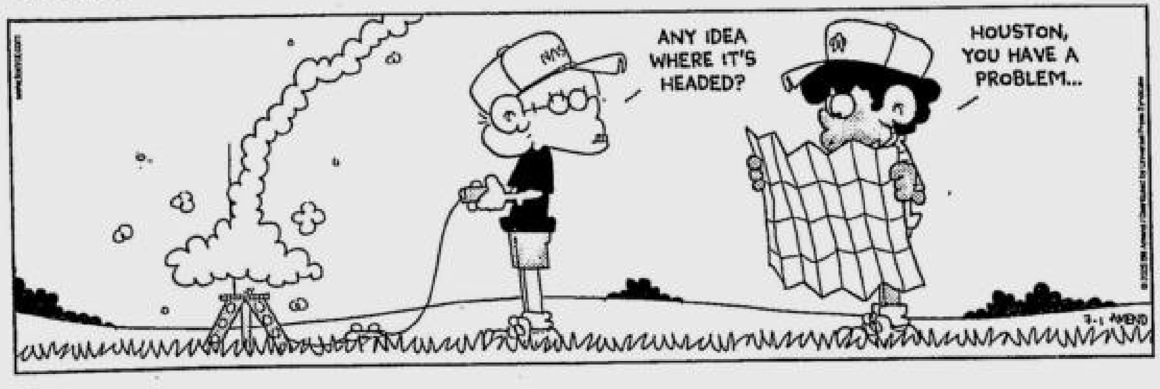
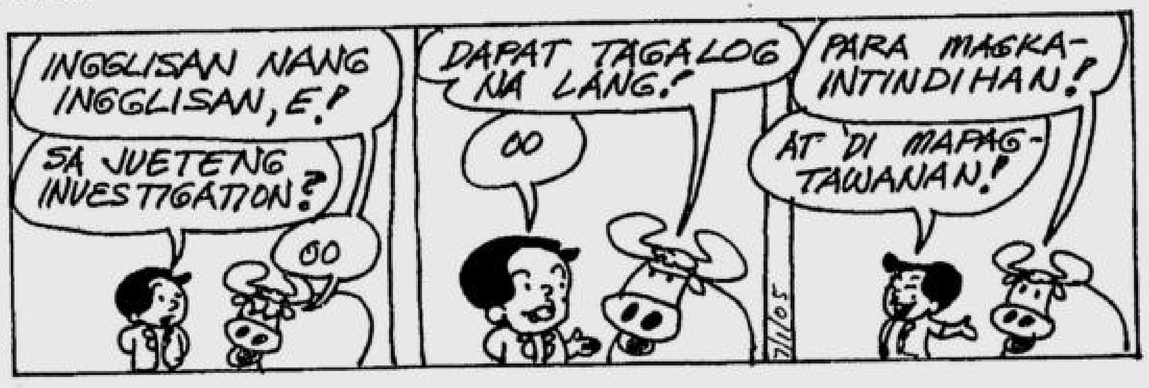
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


ANY IDEA WHERE IT'S HEADED?
HOUSTON, YOU HAVE A PROBLEM...
7-1 AMEND

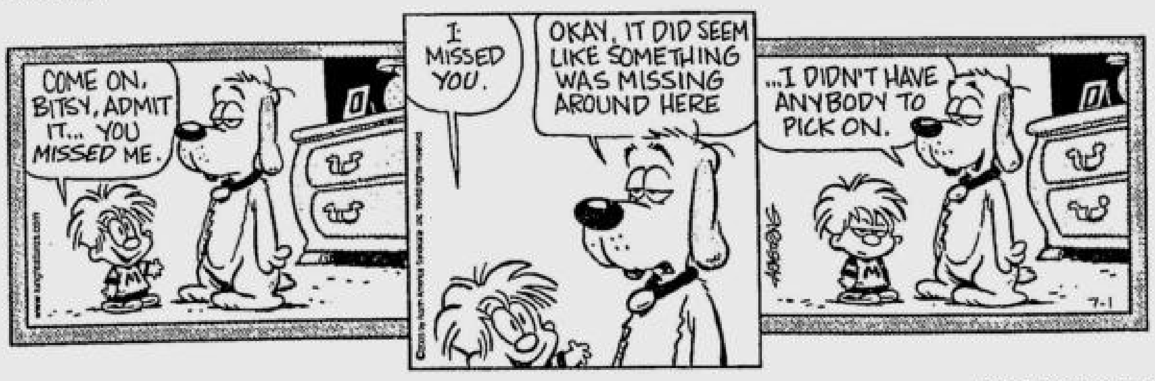
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


INGGLISAN NANG INGGLISAN, E!
SA JUETENG INVESTIGATION?
OO
DAPAT TAGALOG NA LANG!
OO
PARA MAGKA-INTINDIHAN!
AT 'DI MAPAG-TAWANAN!
7/1/05

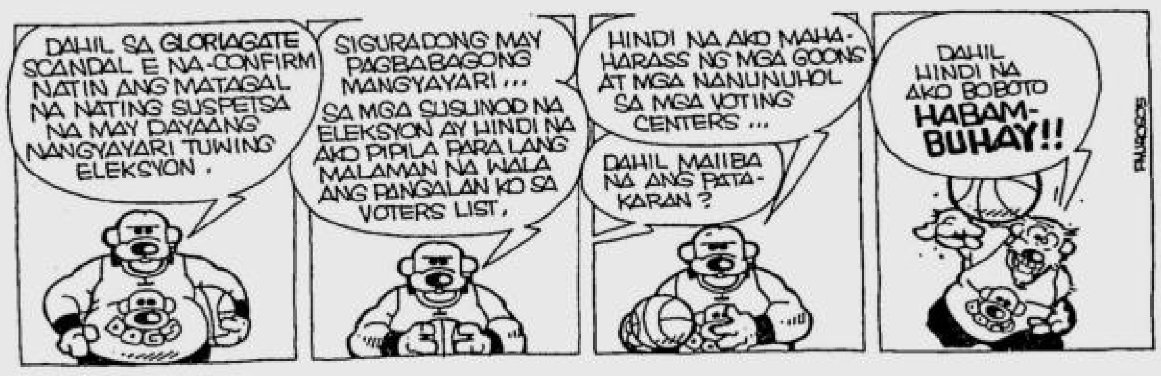
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


COME ON, BITSY, ADMIT IT... YOU MISSED ME.
I MISSED YOU.
OKAY, IT DID SEEM LIKE SOMETHING WAS MISSING AROUND HERE
...I DIDN'T HAVE ANYBODY TO PICK ON.
7-1

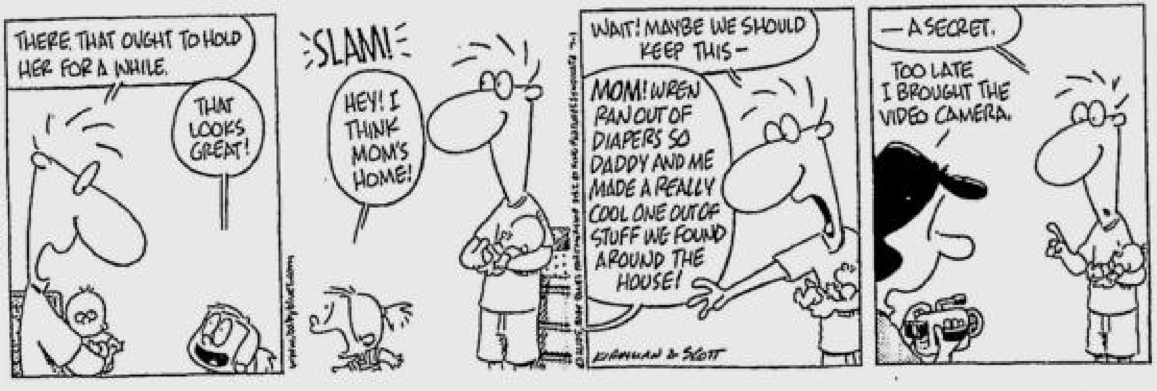
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DAHIL SA GLORIAGATE SCANDAL E NA-CONFIRM NATIN ANG MATAGAL NA NATING SUSPETSA NA MAY DAYAANG NANGYAYARI TUWING ELEKSYON.
SIGURADONG MAY PAGBABAGONG MANGYAYARI... SA MGA SUSUNOD NA ELEKSYON AY HINDI NA AKO PIPILA PARA LANG MALAMAN NA WALA ANG PANGALAN KO SA VOTERS LIST.
HINDI NA AKO MAHA-HARASS NG MGA GOONS AT MGA NANUNUHOL SA MGA VOTING CENTERS...
DAHIL MAIIBA NA ANG PATA-KARAN?
DAHIL HINDI NA AKO BOBOTO HABAM-BUHAY!!

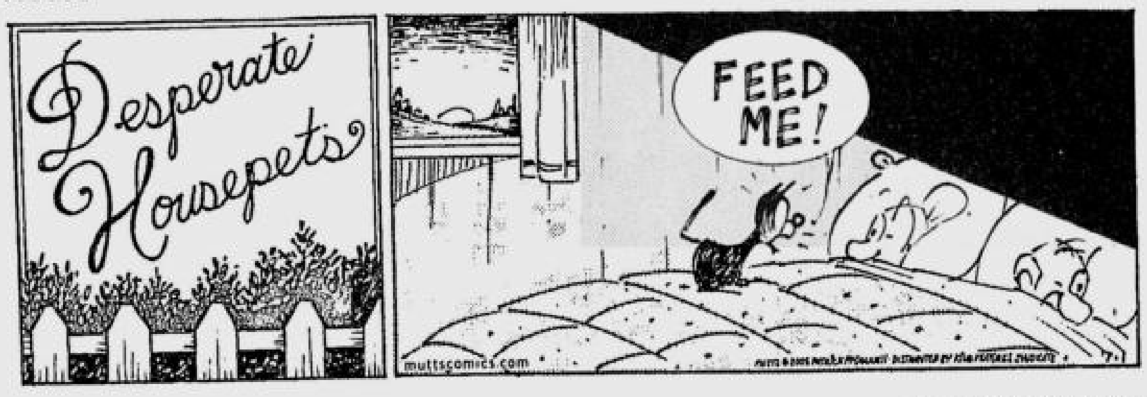
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THERE. THAT OUGHT TO HOLD HER FOR A WHILE.
THAT LOOKS GREAT!
SLAM!
HEY! I THINK MOM'S HOME!
WAIT! MAYBE WE SHOULD KEEP THIS–
MOM! WREN RAN OUT OF DIAPERS SO DADDY AND ME MADE A REALLY COOL ONE OUT OF STUFF WE FOUND AROUND THE HOUSE!
–A SECRET.
TOO LATE. I BROUGHT THE VIDEO CAMERA.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

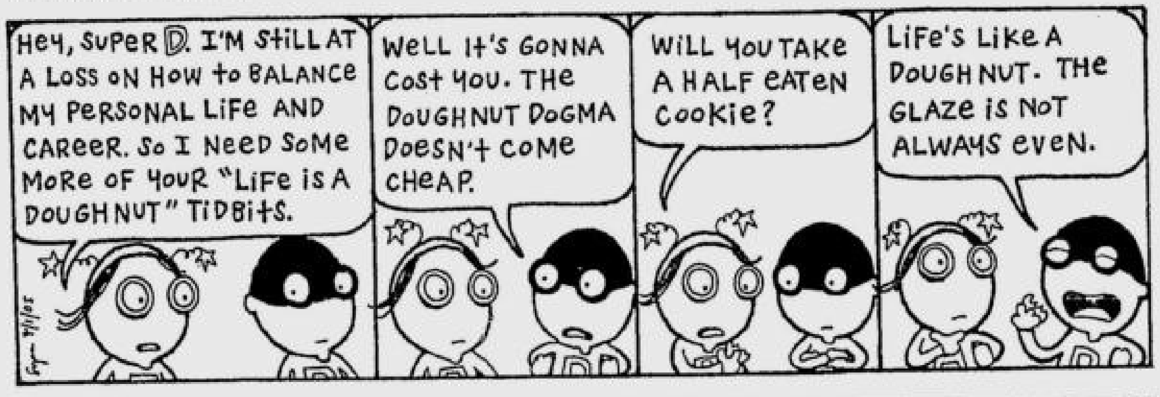
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Desperate Housepets
FEED ME!
muttscomics.com

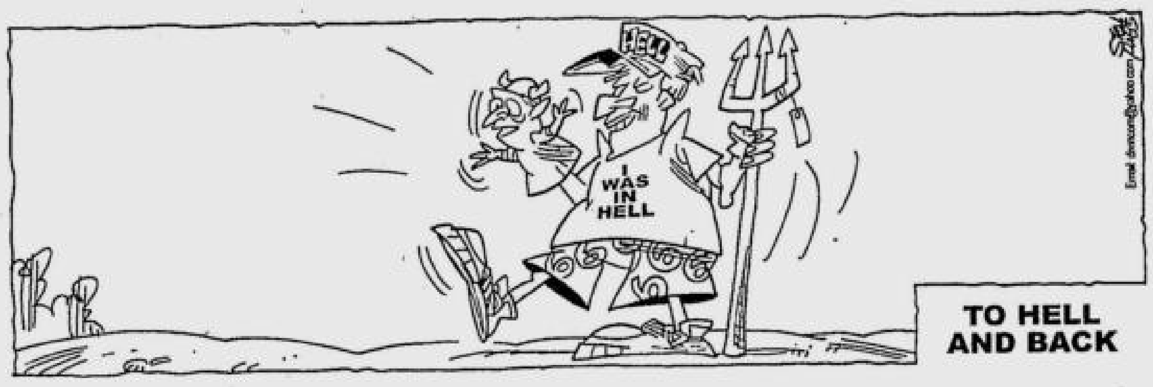
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, Super D. I'M still at a loss on how to balance my personal life and career. So I need some more of your "Life is a doughnut" tidbits.
Well it's gonna cost you. The doughnut dogma doesn't come cheap.
Will you take a half eaten cookie?
Life's like a doughnut. The glaze is not always even.

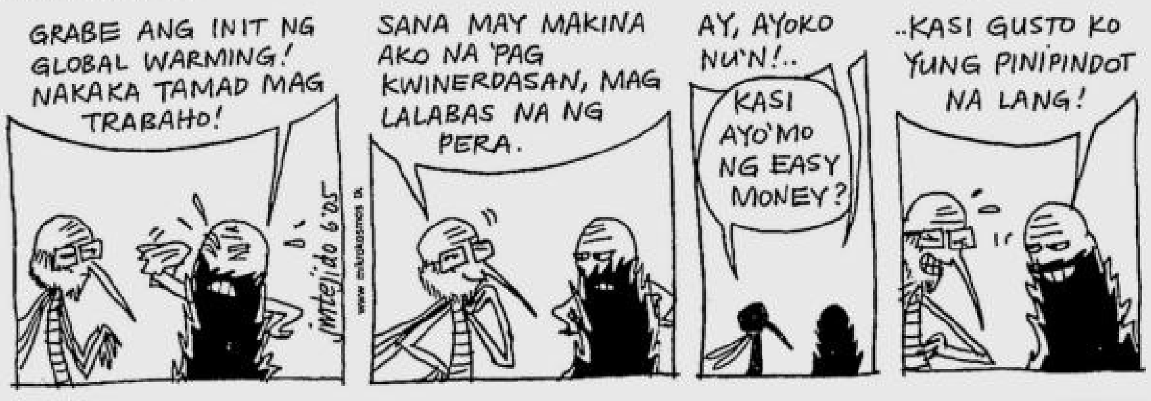
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HELL
I WAS IN HELL
TO HELL AND BACK

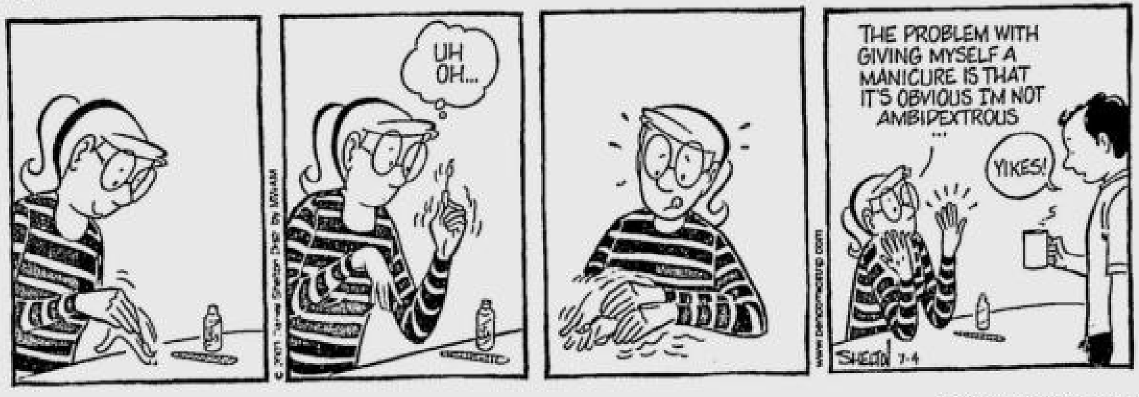
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


GRABE ANG INIT NG GLOBAL WARMING! NAKAKA TAMAD MAG TRABAHO!
SANA MAY MAKINA AKO NA 'PAG KWINERDASAN, MAG LALABAS NA NG PERA.
AY, AYOKO NU'N!..
KASI AYO'MO NG EASY MONEY?
..KASI GUSTO KO YUNG PINIPINDOT NA LANG!
jmtejido 6'05

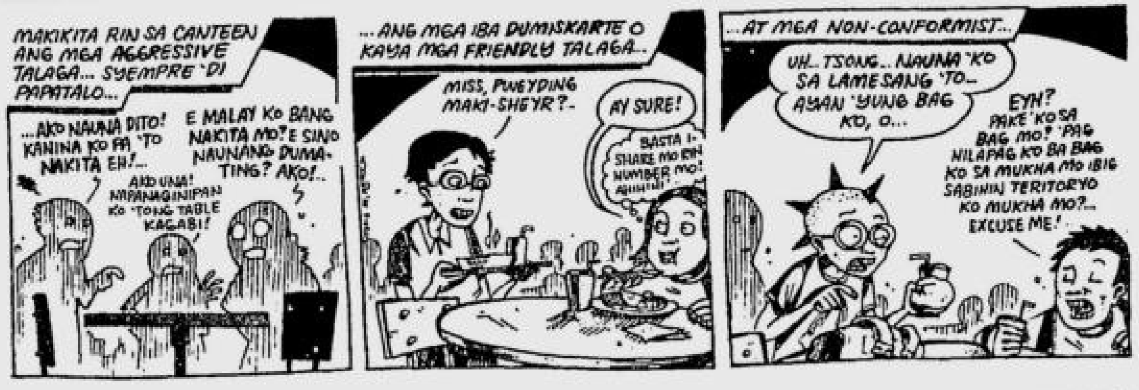
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


UH OH...
THE PROBLEM WITH GIVING MYSELF A MANICURE IS THAT IT'S OBVIOUS I'M NOT AMBIDEXTROUS
YIKES!
SHELTON 7-4

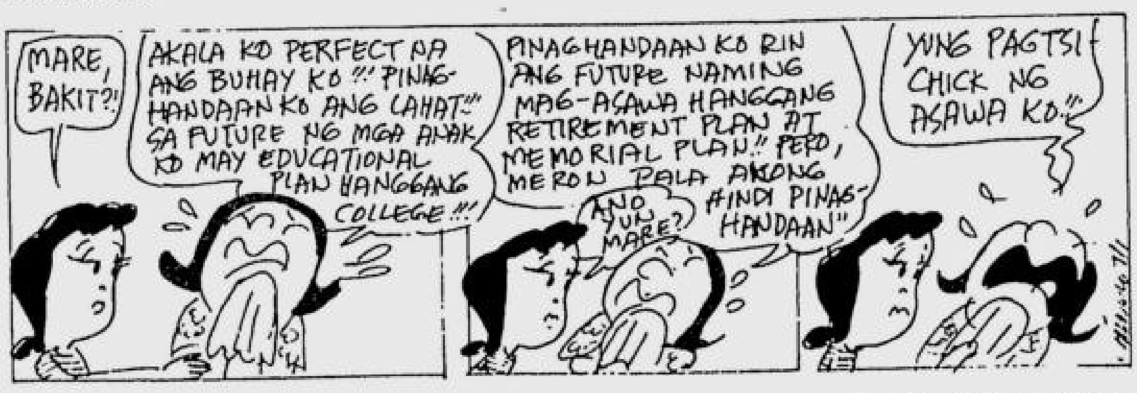
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


MAKIKITA RIN SA CANTEEN ANG MGA AGGRESSIVE TALAGA... SYEMPRE 'DI PAPATALO...
...AKO NAUNA DITO! KANINA KO PA 'TO NAKITA EH!..
E MALAY KO BANG NAKITA MO? E SINO NAUNANG DUMATING? AKO!..
AKO UNA! NAPANAGINIPAN KO 'TONG TABLE KAGABI!
...ANG MGA IBA DUMISKARTE O KAYA MGA FRIENDLY TALAGA..
MISS, PWEYDING MAKI-SHEYR?..
AY SURE!
BASTA I-SHARE MO RIN NUMBER MO! AHIHIHI!
...AT MGA NON-CONFORMIST...
UH.. TSONG.. NAUNA 'KO SA LAMESANG 'TO.. AYAN 'YUNG BAG KO, O...
EYH? PAKE 'KO SA BAG MO? 'PAG NILAPAG KO BA BAG KO SA MUKHA MO IBIG SABIHIN TERITORYO KO MUKHA MO?.. EXCUSE ME!

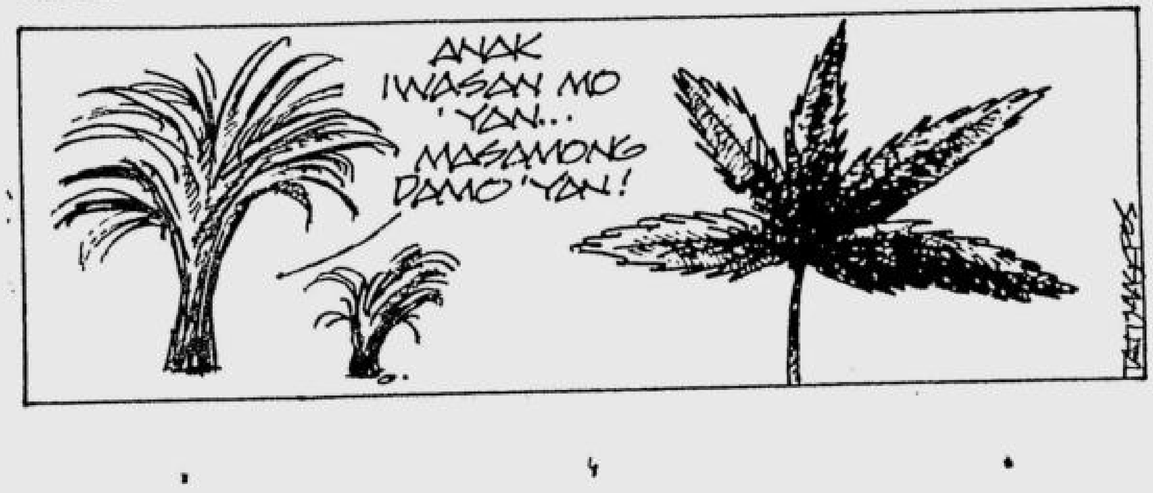
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MARE, BAKIT?!
AKALA KO PERFECT NA ANG BUHAY KO!!! PINAG-HANDAAN KO ANG LAHAT!!! SA FUTURE NG MGA ANAK KO MAY EDUCATIONAL PLAN HANGGANG COLLEGE!!!
PINAGHANDAAN KO RIN ANG FUTURE NAMING MAG-ASAWA HANGGANG RETIREMENT PLAN AT MEMORIAL PLAN!! PERO, MERON PALA AKONG HINDI PINAG-HANDAAN!!
ANO YUN MARE?
YUNG PAGTSI-CHICK NG ASAWA KO!!
7/1

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ANAK IWASAN MO 'YAN... MASAMANG DAMO 'YAN!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You easily impress others. In part, this is because of your natural charm, but it's also due to your strength of mind. People sense that you can make a difference somehow. (And you can.) You have a special kind of dignity and personal resolve. You don't let others down. Plan on fun, social times this year! Meet new people. Fall in love! Birthdate of: Princess Diana, British Royal; Liv Tyler, actress; Pamela Anderson, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel happy and exuberant today. Nevertheless, you might go overboard dealing with a partner or close friend. Don't make promises you can't keep later.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is the kind of day where your eyes are bigger than your stomach. (Did your parents ever say this to you?) Don't overextend yourself or promise more than you can deliver.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You are definitely tempted to spend too much money on fun, vacations, pleasure—or something. Think twice before you part with your hard-earned cash; it doesn't grow on trees.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You have a lot of energy to get ahead and do things today. You also feel very generous toward others. You can probably succeed at something you're normally worried about.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might have difficulty with others today because they don't believe you for some reason. Be careful not to be superior or smug about anything. (Even though you don't mean to be.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Join with others to make things happen today. Group activities are extremely productive. Others will spur you on to do great things.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You make a wonderful impression on bosses, VIPs and important people today. Nevertheless, don't get cocky! (Don't say you can do something if you're not sure that you can.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have a strong desire to learn something new about religion, politics, other world cultures or history. You're hungry for knowledge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't give away the farm today. On the other hand, if someone wants to give you something, take it and say "thank you"! (Anything could happen.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're tempted to tell somebody what you think he or she wants to hear. But this might get you in hot water! (Unless you're a tea bag, you don't want this to happen.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Things are going swimmingly at work today. People are happy, upbeat and optimistic. Make sure you are realistic about what you can deliver. (Be conservative.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): What a glorious day to have fun! You believe in your future. You feel happy, hopeful and glad to be alive. (And so should we all.)

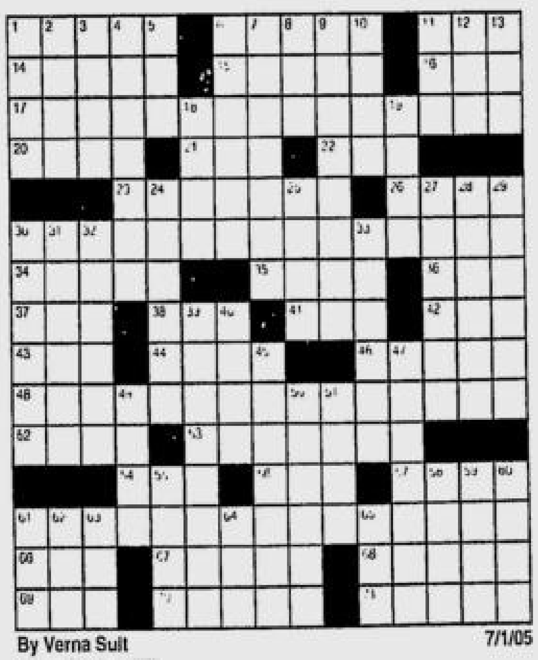
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Gnat cousin
6 Stage
11 Actress Lupino
14 Intense hatred
15 Wrestling Hulk
16 Boob tubes
17 Fence
20 Croat or Serb
21 Slithery fish
22 Actress Joanne
23 Heart of Dixie
26 Proof of pur.
30 Fence
34 Mr. T's group
35 __ Bien Phu
36 Multi-computer syst.
37 Gradually slower, in mus.
38 Cry of discovery
41 Suffix in binary compounds
42 Caustic substance
43 One-time connection
44 Nothing in Nogales
46 Canary comment
48 Fence
52 Exxon, once
53 Truman's Secretary of State
54 __ tai (rum cocktail)
56 Author Deighton
57 Oriop or poop
61 Fence
66 Salty sauce
67 Terre __, IN
68 Musical refrain
69 Lamb's mama
70 Stopped
71 Sean of "The Lord of the Rings"

DOWN

1 May honorees
2 Fan favorite
3 Prima donna
4 Revolutionary Che
5 Mammal's triplets?
6 Lisa on "Friends"
7 Tulip country
8 Long span
9 Shod for the beach
10 Art print, briefly
11 Ice skater Midori
12 Movie on a PC
13 Numbskull
18 Small duck
19 Yours and mine
24 "Sanford and Son" son
25 Twice DLI
27 Assembly line quality controller
28 Offered a devout petition
29 Doctrines
30 Pot with a pouring spout
31 Ear problem
32 Changes the labeling
33 Boxer's punch combo
39 Kauai native
40 Like Pindar's poetry
45 Sports figure
47 Marvels
49 Habitat
50 Listened to
51 IRS IDs
55 Dull throb
58 Part of Q.E.D.
59 Half of DII
60 Mongol ruler
61 Exploit
62 This minute!
63 Change the color of
64 Flop
65 Mom-and-pop org.



By Verna Suit
Silver Spring, MD

7/1/05

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	O	A	T	■	M	I	D	A	S	■	A	B	E	T
H	A	N	A	■	A	D	E	L	A	■	T	R	U	E
I	F	T	H	E	C	A	M	E	L	■	T	U	R	N
■	■	■	O	R	B	■	O	P	T	■	E	N	O	S
O	N	C	E	G	E	T	S	H	I	S	N	O	S	E
P	O	L	■	O	T	O	■	S	E	E	D	■	■	■
A	R	A	B	■	I	R	E	■	R	E	E	S	E	S
R	A	R	E	R	■	I	N	A	■	M	E	A	N	T
T	H	E	S	E	A	■	A	R	M	■	S	U	R	E
■	■	■	E	S	T	A	■	C	A	I	■	D	O	E
T	E	N	T	H	I	S	B	O	D	Y	W	I	L	L
I	N	I	T	■	S	T	L	■	E	P	A	■	■	■
M	U	N	I	■	S	O	O	N	F	O	L	L	O	W
I	R	O	N	■	U	R	A	N	O	■	L	O	R	E
D	E	N	G	■	E	S	T	E	R	■	S	M	E	E

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7/1/05

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Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design
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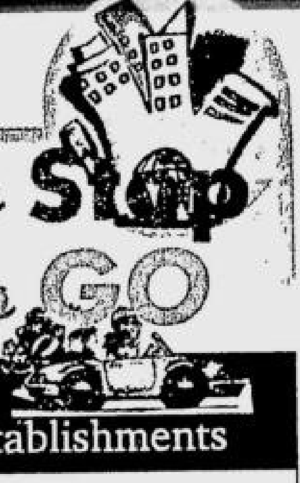

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A delectable month of July at Dusit

DUSIT Hotel Nikko never stops at surprising its valued clients. This July, guests are invited to sample the different food offerings of its Asian specialty restaurants guaranteed to delight their palates.

Savor a buffet spread showcasing the best of Asian cuisine offered daily for lunch and dinner at The Cafe for only P850++ per person. Guests can also avail themselves of the "Juice Buffet", an unlimited serving of assorted juices priced at P150++ per person.

Dance in the rain with "Rain Coolers", the featured drink for July that is available in all outlets. A sweet blend of fruit juices garnished with jackfruit, an order of this special drink comes with a stuffed toy and priced at P400++ per glass. Indulge yourself with Banana Caramel Surprise that is available at the hotel's Deli Shop. This mouthwatering cake is priced at P730 nett for a whole cake and P85 nett per slice.

Ongoing is Fiesta San Miguel's "Hot from the Pot" food promotion. Have a warm meal served fresh this rainy season with the Filipino "Hot Pot" — the popular Asian tabletop cooking. Diners will have their choice of broth and vegetables and can choose either the meat or seafood platter to create their own "Hot Pot" creation. Filipino "Hot Pot" serving is good for two to five persons. Experience this Filipino offering, with a unique twist, for the entire month of July.

Add a little twist to your drink, try Mango Drizzle, Fiesta San Miguel's special drink for July priced at P400++. Located at the ground floor of Dusit Hotel Nikko, Fiesta San Miguel is the first and only restaurant and bar that offers freshly brewed beer. Move and groove with some of the country's top bands playing nightly. No cover charge.

Stars and Stripes Parade at The Bellevue Hotel

MARCH on with a parade of spectacular American dishes at The Bellevue Hotel's Stars and Stripes 4th of July Buffet Promo this July 2 to 4. The Bellevue, southern Metro Manila's dining mecca, brings out the gastronomic fireworks in this rare American feast for only P690++.

Choose to your hearts content! Cold appetizers like Fried Green Tomatoes and Chicken Galantine, salads like Creamy Coleslaw, Baked Shrimp and Crab and Red Potato and Clam Chowder Soup are perfect beginnings for a hearty meal. Hot selections of Seafood Jambalaya Rice, Baked Ham and Cheese Macaroni, Baked King Prawns, Grilled Cajun Pork Steak, Barbecue Baby Back Ribs and Southern Fried Chicken, carvings of Chuck Roll and Glazed Virginia Bone in Ham, as well as favorites from the grill station will send you in comfort food heaven.

ASTORIA PLAZA'S DRIZZLE DELIGHTS
Rainy days can soften even the hardest of hearts. Surreal images of cuddling and curling in bed beckon. Make this a reality and fulfill your deepest fantasies. Take advantage of the rainy season by checking in the hippest hotel in town. Stay in Astoria Plaza's 1-bedroom suite for only P3,150 and a 2-bedroom suite for P4,950 and indulge. Make your dripping fantasies a reality. Room rates are inclusive of buffet breakfast, complimentary bottled mineral water, roundtrip shuttle service to nearby malls and free use of the gym and the pool. Guests can also avail themselves of a relaxing in-room facial massage upon prior reservations at the front desk. Lucky Astoria Plaza guests get a chance to win exciting prizes such as gift certificates for express massage from Urban Spa, magazine subscriptions from Stargate Publications' People Asia magazine and gift packs from Cosmoderm's Invisible Fix. Astoria Plaza's Drizzle Delights Room Promo is valid from July 1 to Sep. 30. Room rates are subject to service charge and government taxes.

City Garden Hotel Makati is ISO 9001:2000 Certified

ENJOYING a good occupancy and an extensive clientele, City Garden Hotel Makati did not stop from continuously improving to better serve its guests and clients.

Just recently, City Garden Hotel Makati, The hotel along Makati Avenue, has been awarded the ISO 9001:2000 certification for Quality Management System. With this certification, guests and clients of the hotel will be assured of continuous improvement on its facilities and services at par with international standards.

GM Johnny Rios was ecstatic when he shared that "the Management's and employees' team spirit was instrumental in bagging this certification. Everyone is committed to providing a high level of guest satisfaction, and will contribute in the hotel's policy of Quality Service. Becoming certified is just the beginning for all of us. We are now more dedicated in providing the best facilities and services for our guests and clients."

Shown is City Garden Hotel Makati's management together with CQL consultants led by its GM Johnny G. Rios . First row, from left, are Erwin Miranda—finance, Suzette Cuerpo—DOSM, Dianne Abalon—HRD, Minerva Macaraeg—executive secretary, Mel Tagaduar—purchasing and Oscar Bangayan—security. Second row, from left, are Julie Sy —CQL, Kris Sadia—CQL, Ricardo Orpiada—EAM, Henry Pelausa—MIS, GM Rios. Third row, from left, are Dexter Chua—CQL, Junn Sabatin—F&B, Ronald Alba—FO, Armand Battung—engineering.

CONGRATULATES...
CITY GARDEN HOTEL MAKATI
for successfully passing the ISO 9001:2000 Certification Audit !!!
CQL
Your Partner to Success

Las Palmas
CORPORATE SALES BLITZ
2005

LAS PALMAS HOTEL'S SALES BLITZ 2005 SERIES
The Las Palmas Hotel sales team recently launched its quarterly sales blitz series for 2005. The main objective of this event was to promote the hotel's rooms special rates and banquet packages to individual and group clients. Shown are (from left) Hazel Chua —account manager, Rochelle Garcia—account manager, Vanessa Amante—banquet account manager, Anne Dizon—sales manager, Sharon Medianero—senior account manager, Mary Ann Fernandez—account manager and Joshua Gabat—account manager. Accounts visited were from travel agencies, government sectors and corporate companies from Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, CaMaNaVa (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela) and the various airlines in Metro Manila. Las Palmas Hotel is located at 1616 A. Mabini Street, Malate, Manila with telephone numbers 521-1000 and 524-5612. You can also fax Las Palmas Hotel at 523-6917, or e-mail sales@laspalmashotel.com.ph or log on to www.laspalmashotel.com.ph.

SHOW TIME

Cool jazz nights at Wasabi

THE COOL nights after summer just got cooler, with Wasabi Restaurant's (Makati Avenue) Jazz Nights.

The special fare mainstream, fusion and chill-out sounds.

On Wednesdays and Thursdays, Jett Project, a three-DJ set, spins excellent chill and house specialties.

On Fridays, Wasabi's own jazz ensemble, led by Jazz For Kicks (JFK) and featuring guest singers, like Mon David, serves up live music.

Also Affinity, Guarana, Nyko Maka, Quail Quartet, Lynn Sherman and the Brass Munkeys.

Affinity is led by guitarist/composer Johnny Alegre and has a cast of jazz greats like Tots Tolentino on alto sax, Elhmir Saison on piano, Simon Tan on double-bass, Koko Bermejo on drums and Cooky Chua on vocals.

RJ Jacinto

JFK has Sandra Lim on vocals, Jun Viray on drums, MD Koyang Avenir on guitar, Caloy Herrera on bass, and Lorrie Zamora on alto sax.

The Latino beat is alive with Guarana—Eileen Sison on vocals, Michael Guevarra on sax, Mike Ponce de Leon on vocals and timbales, Tom Marco on guitar, Ike Ijiran on bass, Junjun Regalado on drums and Richie Q on percussion.

Nyko Maka, a.k.a. Nicole Severino gets excellent backup from her band—Butch Silverio on trumpet, JC Magsalin on bass, Yoshi on drums and Jose Dufourt on percussion.

The Brass Munkeys puts the swing and the swagger.

Saturdays feature Quail Quartet, a mainstream jazz band.

Tonight

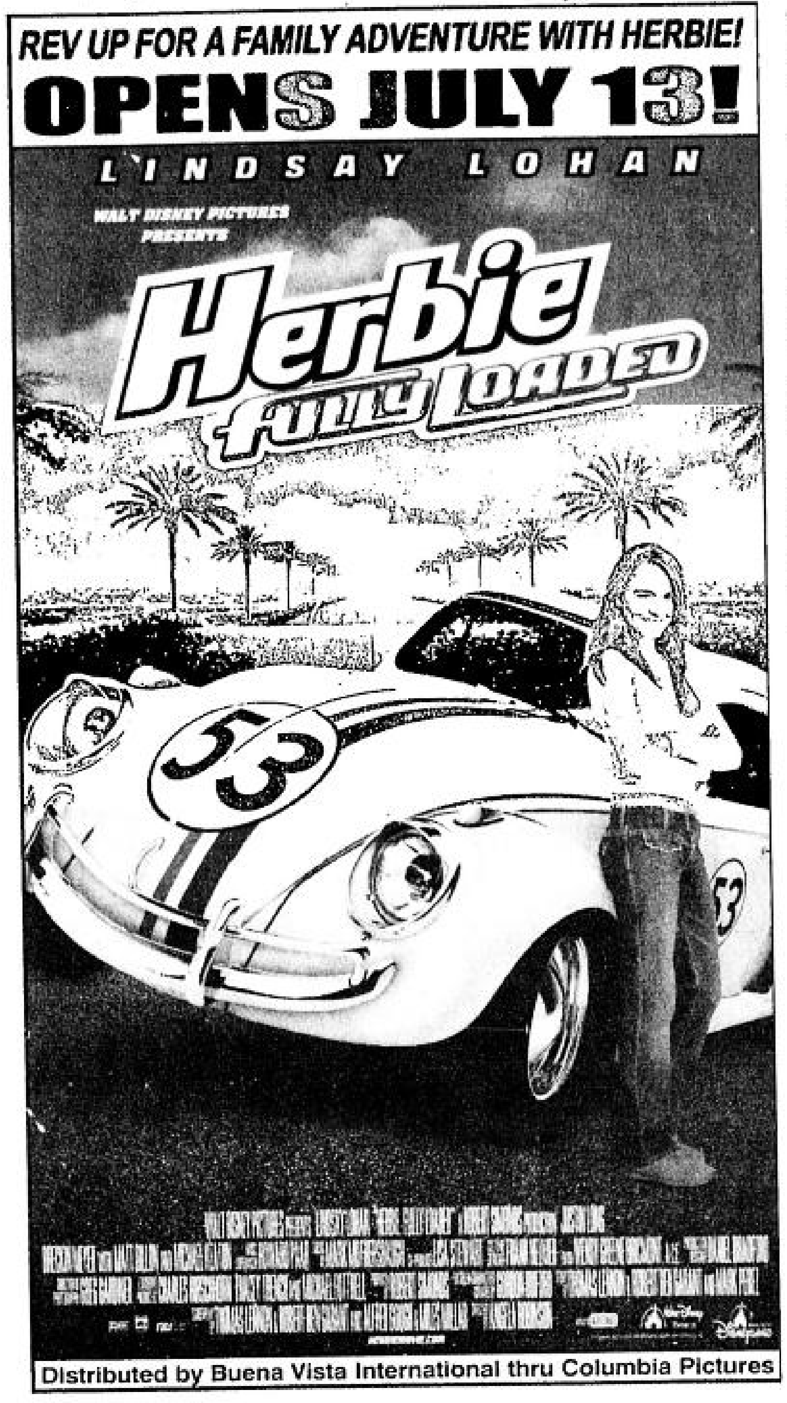
Aliya Parcs and **Malik** at **Caronia**'s launch of its new look in **Greenbelt 1**; 6 p.m.

Rico J with **K Brosas** at the **Music Museum**; 9 p.m.

RJ and **Bloomfields** at **RJ Guitar Bar** along Jupiter Street Makati; 9 p.m.

Jimmy Bondoc and **Pseudonymz** at **Suburbia**

AFFINITY Band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53
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Oops, wrong question!

From page A3-1

man. I hope this is the movie that finally makes James a major star. This talented actor, who is returning in "Spider-Man 3" and who is in "The Great Raid," the much-ballyhooed World War II action-drama set in the Philippines but filmed elsewhere, deserves to be in the big leagues. French actor Jean Reno also stars.

Dean and producer-director Roland Emmerich have ended their collaboration which resulted in a number of monster hits but they are on friendly terms. Los Angeles Times reported that Dean, hoping to create some buzz for "Flyboys" at last month's Cannes Film Festival, flew in by private jet one Friday night and jetted out Sunday evening. Now that's a flyboy, LA Times declared.

By coincidence, Ophellia San Juan, in her INQUIRER Entertainment article (June 17), "A Rizal movie still waiting to be made," brought up Filipino Tomas Claudio, who, like the flyboys that are going to be depicted in Dean's movie, fought with the American army in France during World War I. Ophellia cited Claudio's heroic tale as among the exploits that should be depicted onscreen so that Filipino youths will become aware of them.

Gets weirder

And finally, the saga of Michael Jackson gets even more bizarre, as if it could get any weirder. I was surprised to learn that he's not even the biological father of his two kids.

I did not know about this twist in Jacko's bizarre life until I came across this item in Liz Smith's column in the New York Post: "Debbie Rowe and Michael Jackson had a legal marriage but no wedlock. Their vows were never consummated by touching. She was strictly a broodmare for the two children she carried and eventually handed over to him in toto. (Most of us mistakenly thought he was 'fathering' these children, but it turned out that isn't true. Someone unknown supplied the sperm.) Debbie doesn't even know, or barely knows, these children. She barely knows Michael. I'd say she had no idea as to whether or not she was marrying a pedophile. But she certainly knew for what she was being paid. And since her testimony in his recent trial backfired so badly for the prosecution, maybe Debbie can expect even more largess from Michael if he ever gets his finances improved. I'm sure if Michael is thinking at all, he is quite grateful to Debbie Rowe. Or he should be."

On that note, I say: only in Hollywood, folks, only in Hollywood.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales@yahoo.com.)

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WHAT'S INSIDE
DOF to lift automatic guarantee on GOCC loans /B6
Cocktales /B3

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Bangko Sentral keeps policy rates steady

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY Board yesterday decided to keep the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' key policy rates steady even as the peso had weakened past the 56 level against the US dollar.

The BSP's overnight borrowing rate was kept at 7 percent and the overnight lending rate at 9.25 percent.

The Monetary Board, the BSP's policy-making body, last raised key overnight rates by 25 basis points in April as a preemptive move against rising global oil prices that were already seen driving up inflationary pressures.

Most foreign exchange traders were expecting that the peso's freefall, especially after Fernando Poe Jr.'s widow Susan Roces joined calls for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation as president, would prompt the BSP to raise the rates anew.

"During its deliberations on the monetary policy stance, the (board) noted that the outlook for inflation and domestic demand suggests that there is flexibility for monetary authorities to maintain the current policy settings," BSP Officer-in-Charge Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

The BSP's basic arguments for keeping the current rates was that underlying conditions in the inflation environment continued to be driven mainly by rising oil prices while demand-side pressures remain largely absent. It noted though that there was evidence of moderating consumption growth, sluggish private credit activity and general indications of spare capacity in the economy.

It added that inflation expectations appear to be manageable despite a resurgence in oil price pressures, the emergent risks from transport fare increase and the impact of value-added tax reform in the short-term.

"The MB, however, noted the need to closely monitor the current pressures in the foreign exchange market," Tetangco said.

"While sentiment-driven and prompted largely by developments on the political front, monetary authorities observed that the volatility in the exchange rate can affect inflation expectations," he said.

Jose Emmanuel Hilado, president of the foreign exchange association ACI Philippines, agreed that an increase in the BSP's interest rates would not be effective in curbing the current peso volatility, given the tight limits on allowable dollar holdings slapped on banks.

"The BSP will not hike rates just because of the foreign exchange depreciation," Hilado said.

But Tetangco said the Monetary Board would continue to monitor indications of inflation expectations and get ready to take action if needed to guard against any adverse shift in the public's expectations on consumer prices.

THE COUNTRY is divided over what lies ahead for embattled President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. But in Calbayog City, Western Samar, it's business as usual for the many vendors of smoked fish. REUTERS

Ayalas to venture into power sector

By Abigail L. Ho

KEEN on jumping on the energy bandwagon to further diversify its interests, the Ayala Group is now looking at some of the assets of state-owned National Power Corp. that the government is in the process of privatizing.

Ayala Corp. treasurer and chief finance officer Delfin Lazaro said the power sector became of particular interest to the group because of its scale.

The conglomerate's primary objective, however, was in supporting the government's privatization efforts, he said.

Power sector assets that were already in private sector hands, such as the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co., were not within the group's radar, he added.

"We are looking at government energy assets scheduled to be privatized, not Meralco. Ayala has not arrived at any concrete decisions, even the decision to bid for any particular asset. We have simply included energy as one area to consider in our plans to grow the business," he told the INQUIRER.

Napocor, through the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), is in the process of privatizing electricity-generating facilities located in Luzon and Visayas.

PSALM has so far sold six Napocor plants—five hydroelectric and one coal-fired. These are the 35-MW Talomo plant in Davao for $1.37 million, the 1.6-MW Agusan plant in Bukidnon for $1.53 million, the 1.8-MW Barit plant in Camarines Sur for $480,000, the 0.4-MW Cawayan plant in Sorsogon for $410,410, the 1.2-MW Loboc plant in Bohol for $1.42 million, and the Masin-

AYALAS/ B7

INDICATORS

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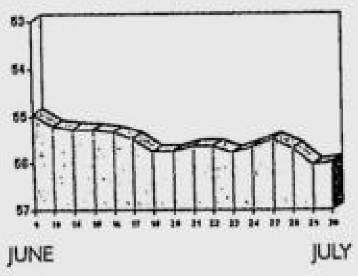
PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P 56.00= $1
As of 5 p.m., June 30, 2005

¥ 110.37 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 30, 2005

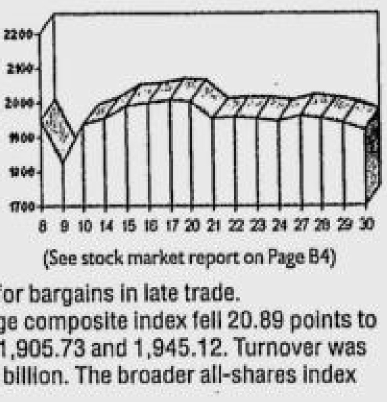
GOLD: $437.30-437.80
per ounce Hong Kong, June 30, 2005

United States	Dollar	0.828844	1.000000	55.9190
Japan	Yen	0.007502	0.009051	0.5061
United Kingdom	Pound	1.496312	1.805300	100.9506
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106664	0.128690	7.1962
Switzerland	Franc	0.646070	0.779484	43.5880
Canada	Dollar	0.674899	0.814266	45.5329
Singapore	Dollar	0.491867	0.593437	33.1844
Australia	Dollar	0.631308	0.761673	42.5920
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.198642	2.652661	148.3342
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221043	0.266688	14.9129
Brunei	Dollar	0.490411	0.591681	33.0862
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000103	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.020074	0.024219	1.3543
UAE	Dirham	0.225695	0.272301	15.2268
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.206500	67.4663
Argentina	Peso	0.286550	0.345722	19.3324
Brazil	Real	0.353000	0.425894	23.8156
Denmark	Kroner	0.134256	0.161980	9.0578
India	Rupee	0.019054	0.022989	1.2855
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218146	0.263193	14.7175
Mexico	New Peso	0.077203	0.093145	5.2086
New Zealand	Dollar	0.578680	0.698178	39.0414
Norway	Kroner	0.126460	0.152574	8.5318
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013891	0.016759	0.9371
South Africa	Rand	0.124358	0.150038	8.3900
Korea	Won	0.000808	0.000975	0.0545
Sweden	Kroner	0.105810	0.127660	7.1386
Syria	Pound	0.015967	0.019264	1.0772
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026234	0.031651	1.7699
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000386	0.000466	0.0261

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 1.07% lower

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARE prices closed 1.07 percent lower yesterday, hit by increasing political tensions as the opposition steps up its efforts to unseat embattled President Macapagal-Arroyo, dealers said.

However, the market managed to come off its lows as some investors looked for bargains in late trade.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 20.89 points to 1,924.23 after trading between 1,905.73 and 1,945.12. Turnover was 1.33 billion shares worth P1.48 billion. The broader all-shares index fell 13.21 points to 1,173.99.

Losers led gainers 90 to 15, with 21 stocks unchanged.

Ms Arroyo is now facing an impeachment complaint in Congress, while there have been calls in some quarters for her resignation over allegations that she cheated her way to victory during last year's presidential election.

The President has repeatedly denied the claims and has insisted she will remain in office.

"Everything is dependent on how events on the political front turn out over the coming days. It is the political noise (right now) that is really hurting the market," said Oliver Plana of Asiasec Equities.

He said a recovery in both equities and the peso could be expected "if we see a calmer situation" moving forward.

Mass protests to call on Ms Arroyo to resign have been scheduled but demonstrations last weekend were relatively modest.

"President Arroyo will win or lose this fight in the court of public opinion; so far the public response has been muted," ING Financial Markets said in a note.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most active stocks, closing down P15 to P1,620.

Ayala Land lost 10 centavos to P7.80 while parent Ayala Corp. fell P7.50 to P315.

AFP

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"Free Software", Unix, and Windows TCO Comparison

The Yankee Group, a global research and consulting firm, concluded that a significant switch to "free software" from Windows or Unix could cost three to four times as much without delivering tangibly better performance or business value. These findings are based on a non-sponsored worldwide survey of 1,000 IT administrators and C-level executives in midsized and large enterprises.

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Exporters ask for more funds

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL exporters yesterday said they needed better access to funds for promotion activities to meet the $50-billion revenue target for 2006.

Donald G. Dee, special envoy for international trade negotiation, said in a statement that meeting the target depended on the will of the government to set aside P1 billion for export promotion efforts, and P10 billion more in credit for exporters.

Dee, who is also president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the funds would be allocated to programs of the International Trade Group of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Dee said that in 2003, the only major Asian country behind the Philippines in export growth was Vietnam.

Last year, Vietnam's export growth hit 15 percent while the Philippines managed less than 10 percent, he added.

"Are we again going to lose the race by default to Vietnam, which started joining the exporting game only several years back?" Dee asked.

The trade envoy also said that while the Department of Finance had announced that the financial system was awash with cash for lending, exporters needed special windows from government financial institutions to make the P10 billion immediately available.

According to the Export Development Council, its new export strategy of aggressive promotions needed P17 billion in funds a year for the three years that the plan covered.

The Philippine Export Development Plan aims to achieve $47 billion in revenues in 2005 and growth rates of 10 percent yearly in 2006 and 2007.

Power consumers brace for rate hike

SOME 60 million electric power consumers in the country in July will begin to absorb an estimated 35-percent increase in their monthly bill following two successive generation rate adjustments by the National Power Corp. and the implementation of the expanded value-added tax law.

The largest Mindanao-based consumer and farmer group, Sargen Integrated Federation Inc., said all of the power sector's customers would start feeling the full impact of the P1.0354 (nationwide weighted average) Napocor rate increase which the the Energy Regulatory Commission approved in September last year and April this year.

Napocor said the 40-percent rate increase was vital to the continuing viability of its operations.

In addition, SIFI said the imposition of VAT on power generation, transmission and distribution was expected to raise electric bills by an additional 10 percent.

SIFI chair Edwin Paraluman said July looms as "one of the worst rate-shock months for power consumers all over the country." While many appear to be resigned to the inevitability of the increases, consumers will definitely feel the pain of the amount they will pay for their July consumption.

Paraluman said it "is important for the government to come up with mitigating measures to cushion the effect of the incorporation of Napocor rate increases and the VAT into the July bill."

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Visayas-Visayas	1,832	1,557
Visayas-North Mindanao	2,118	1,800
Visayas-South Mindanao	3,607	3,066
North Mindanao-North Mindanao	1,145	973
South Mindanao-South Mindanao	2,462	2,093

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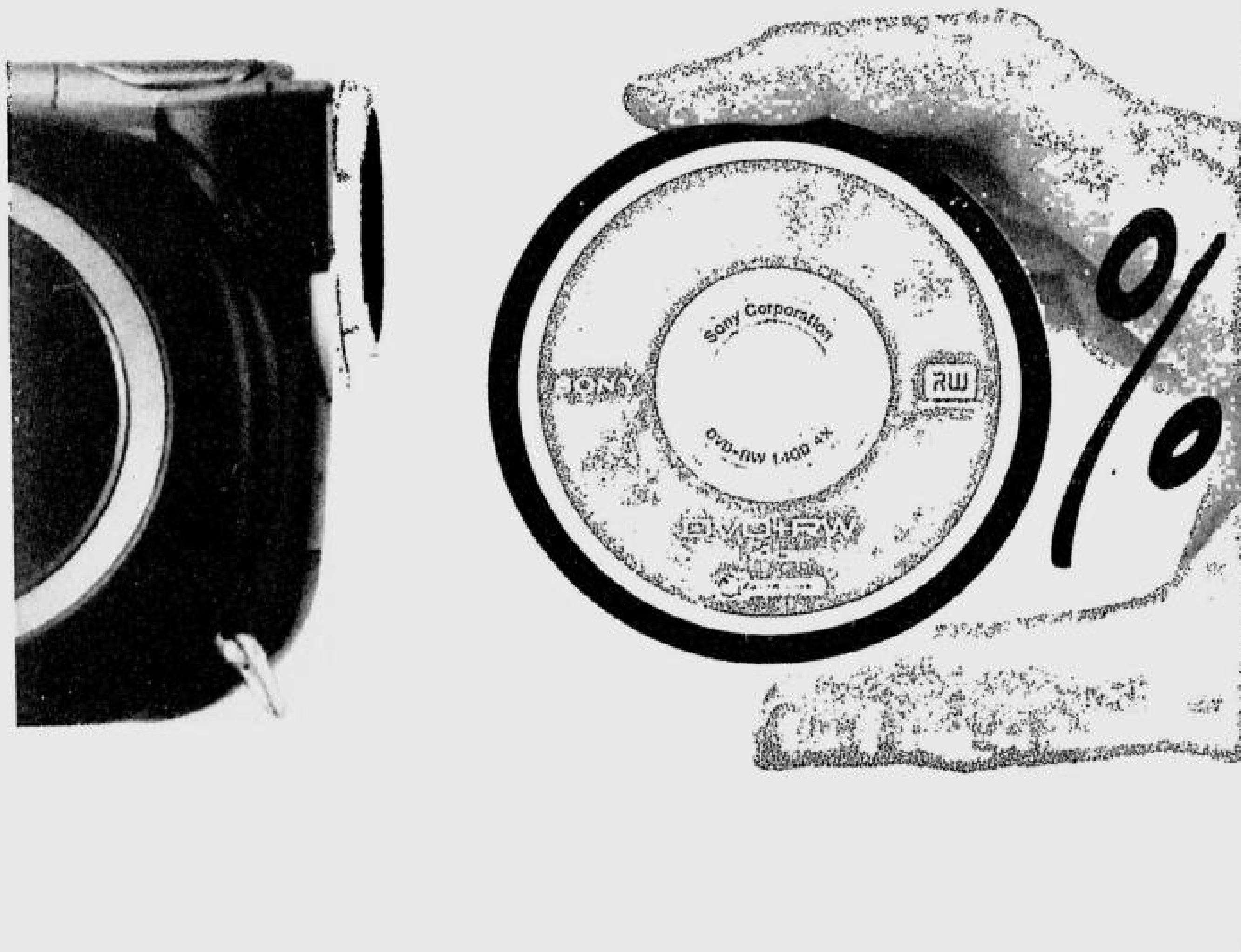

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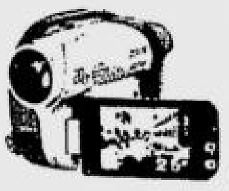

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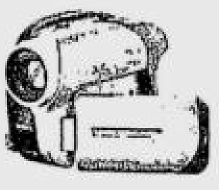

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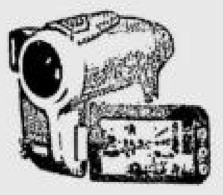

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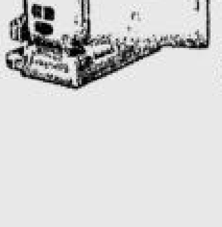

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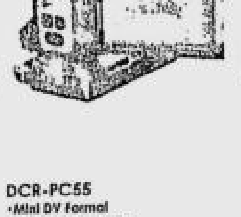

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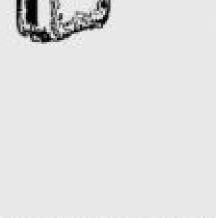

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SEC poises management takeover of Platinum Plans

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) is studying a management takeover of pre-need firm Platinum Plans Inc. to address the deficiencies in its trust fund.

INQUIRER sources said there had been complaints lodged again with the SEC on delayed payments of the company's policies.

Sources at the pre-need firm, however, stressed that these reported delays have been addressed and that its president, Ernesto Salas, had advanced the payments. No amounts were disclosed.

A company official said an option that Platinum Plans was studying was to seek approval of a potential rehabilitation plan from the local courts.

Platinum Plans has an estimated 50,000 plan holders owning traditional plans. Its dealer's license had been suspended this year.

Its collections have been affected by the overall weakness in the industry following the troubles faced by pre-need giant College Assurance Plan Philippines Pacific Plans Inc.

Sales of pre-need firms dropped 24 percent to P2.2 billion in April from P2.9 billion in the same month last year as a number of firms lost their permits to sell plans and some asked for court intervention to suspend payments, SEC sources said.

In a monthly sales report, the SEC said sales of education plans fell 57.5 percent to P472.5 million in April from P1.11 billion in the same month last year. Pension plan sales also dipped by 6.56

SEC/ B7

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PRULINK PRU LIFE UK

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week June 28, 2005	Last Week June 21, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.25980	1.25416
Managed Fund - Peso	1.36752	1.36191
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1275	1.1158

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

INSULAR LIFE UNIT PRICES (In Php)

Investment Funds of **Wealth Builder**	June 27, 2005	June 20, 2005
Fixed Income Fund	1.036228	1.035199
Balanced Fund	1.025376	1.025979
Equity Fund	1.002477	1.006734

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

Scramble at Equitable

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THERE are only 15 board seats at Equitable PCIBank, but at least 35 nominees have been submitted for the July 19 stockholders' meeting.

Among the more recognizable new names: former PBCom president Isidro Alcantara, banker Edward Go and Ramos Executive Secretary Peter Garrucho Jr.

Curiously absent in the list is George Go, the former chair who is now said to be eyeing a comeback through the Go family's holding company.

Go has just returned from San Francisco where, according to the grapevine, he met Equitable PCIBank vice chair Ferdinand Martin Romualdez after the latter visited his longtime colleague and PCIBank's former president, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who is now recuperating in the Bay Area.

Apparently, Romualdez and Go have struck up an alliance of sorts with the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System, the two government fund agencies who are now crying foul over the "artificial" majority control by George's brother, Equitable PCIBank chair Antonio Go.

Antonio Go himself is banking on his team's having had turned around the fortunes of the merged banks after being nearly overrun during the Erap impeachment trial.

As an added insurance, there is the 10-percent "treasury" block held by investment banking subsidiary EBC Investments that should keep Antonio Go's shaky one-man lead in the board come the July 19 elections.

"EBC Investments, while a bank subsidiary, has the sole authority to determine how its bank shares shall be voted," Equitable PCIBank said in a statement, in answer to the SSS-GSIS demand that the shares be voted pro-rata by the major shareholders.

What has not been widely known is that the 10-percent block represents a ticking time bomb as far as the bank's financial ratios are concerned.

As part of the takeover of PCIBank, Equitable Investments acquired the 10-percent block at an average price of P97/share. Despite the merged bank's improving fortunes, the share price is still hovering at P49 a share, nearly a 50-percent loss.

This year, Equitable PCIBank is being mandated, under the new international financial reporting standards, to mark to market the investments of its associates and subsidiaries. By its own reckoning, the bank will suffer a capital impairment by P3.4 billion once the new cost-method rule in accounting for its investments in associates kicks in.

When that happens, Equitable PCIBank will then be forced to raise shareholders' equity to comply with the tougher Bangko Sentral ratios.

When that time comes, from whose pockets would the Gos then dip?

Runaway Price

THE PHILIPPINE manager of PriceSmart warehouse club, Benjamin Woods, has hastily left the country amid the deportation and perjury charges filed by the Filipino minority partners of the American warehouse-shopping chain, this we have on good authority.

In Woods' stead, the Barbados manager, Joe Bryant, had been pulled out despite having headed the West Indies operations for only 10 months and has quietly assumed Woods' functions, including taking over the lease in the North Forbes house.

Money-go-round

- iFREEDOM says the estafa complainants against the VOIP company have all withdrawn their charges, after the Dina Bonnevie-chaired firm had ironed out its operational links with its international gateway partner, Philippine Communications Satellite Corp.
- SPEAKING of Philcomsat, the PCGG nominees in the sequestered company led by Enrique Locsin, brother of Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., have all availed themselves of company-paid executive cars right after as-

COCKTALES/ B7

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For as low as
P 1,000*
(Labor Charge)

Timing Advantage
(Replace Timing Belt / Change Oil and Oil Filter / Clean and/or Replace Spark Plugs / Clean and/or Replace Air Filter/ Check and Adjust Ignition Timing)
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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Charcoal firm to list shares on PSE

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A FAMILY-RUN manufacturer of charcoal made from coconut shells plans to list a fifth of its shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange next year to raise at least $8 million or about P448 million.

Herman Montenegro, president of Pacific Activated Carbon Co., also said the company had converted P550 million of its short-term loans into a seven-year long-term package with a one-year grace period.

"Our plan on public listing aims at complying with the Board of Investment's requirement for projects listed with it as well as reducing our dependence on loans," the Pacco chief explained.

Executive Order No. 226 or the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987 requires BOI-registered firms to be at least 10-percent publicly owned within 10 years of registration.

Pacco operates a facility in Misamis Oriental that can turn out 18,000 metric tons of charcoal a year, with 95 percent of the yield shipped out to customers in North America and Europe.

The firm's clients use Pacco's activated carbon product in the manufacture of cigarette filters and water filters.

Activated carbon is charcoal that has been treated with oxygen to open up millions of tiny pores between the carbon atoms, making it ideal for absorbing odorous or colored substances from gases or liquids.

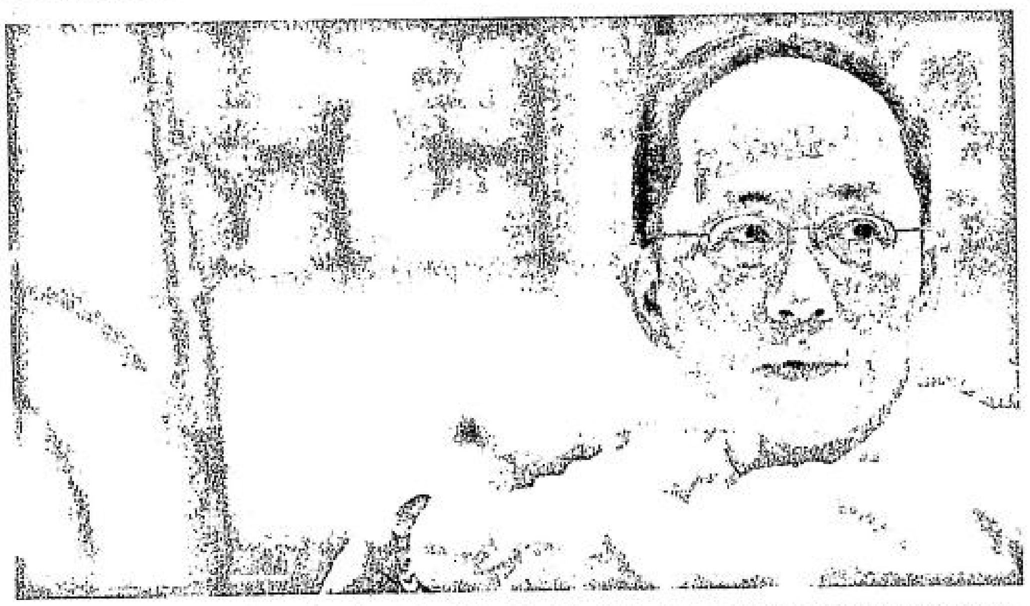
Montenegro said that of the 20-percent equity that would be sold to the public, 12.5 percent would be primary shares and 7.5 percent would be secondary ones.

"Based on the plan, we would be able to reduce at least 40 percent of the total of $15 million that we owe to lenders," he said.

He added that the firm was also looking at the possibility of cross listing with the Singapore Exchange, which last year invited Pacco to do so.

Montenegro added that Pacco's tie up with DEG, which extended a loan of $6.3 million, made possible the ongoing rehabilitation of its 30-year-old plant in Mindanao.

He said the rehabilitation to be completed by the end of October, would allow Pacco to double its exports to P1.3 billion by end-2006.



A FILIPINO trader takes a break at the Philippine Stock Exchange. Philippine shares finished lower Thursday, spooked by growing uncertainty over the fate of President Macapagal-Arroyo, as she faces mounting calls to step down, traders said. The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 20.89 points, or 1.1 percent, at 1,924.23, following Wednesday's 0.5 percent decline.

AP

Lorenzos to expand Pancake chain

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE LORENZO family will pour in as much as P200 million in equity into restaurant operator Pancake House Inc. to expand its operations.

Lorenzo said after the company's stockholder's meeting yesterday that Pancake has talked with five other restaurant brands, and has focused on negotiations with growing Japanese fast food chain, Teriyaki Boy.

Lorenzo said he hoped to complete a deal by the end of the year.

Pancake is on the road to growing its business by putting up more branches of Pancake House and Dencio's Bar and Grill.

Pancake plans to open nine more Pancake stores to end the year with 60 stores. It is also set to launch eight new Dencio's stores this year.

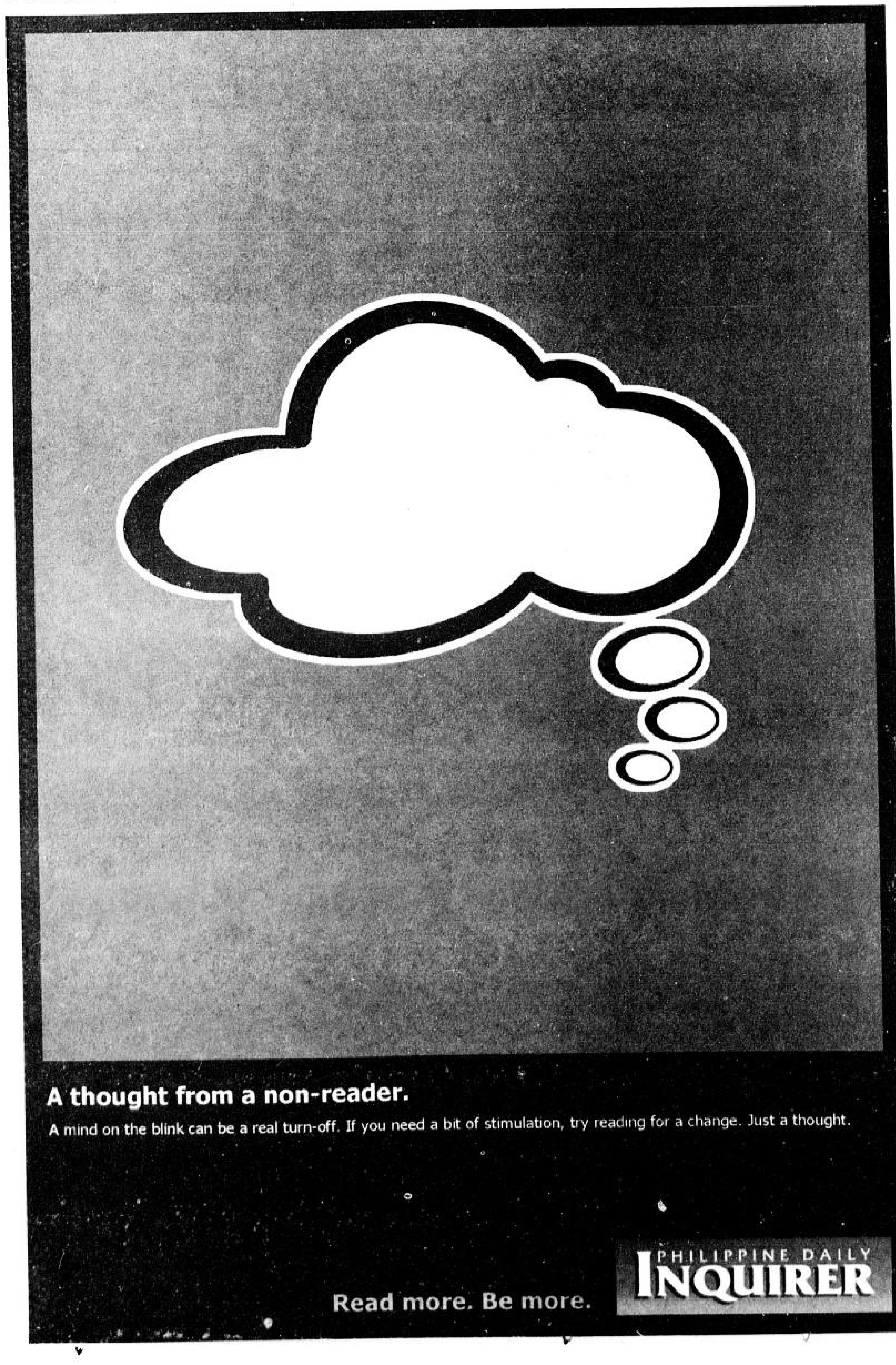
It already opened five in Eastwood and Metrowalk in Ortigas, Magallanes, Brittany Bay and Harbor View.

Pancake hopes to grow its income by 40 to 50 percent this year, and system wide sales for both its leading brands to between P1 and P1.4 billion.

Pancake earlier said it incurred a net loss of P3.46 million in the first quarter from P6.1 million in the same period last year, after it had to pay interest on a long-term debt used to finance its acquisition of the Dencio's Bar and Grill restaurant group.

Despite the net loss, earnings before income taxes only dipped slightly to P17.2 million from P16.76 million the previous year.

Revenues also grew 70.3 percent to P148.95 million from P87.5 million the previous year. Restaurant sales increased to P86.9 million from P53.6 million.



A thought from a non-reader.

A mind on the blink can be a real turn-off. If you need a bit of stimulation, try reading for a change. Just a thought.

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(As of June 30, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3	3	3	3	10,609,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30.5	31.5	30.5	31.5	604,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48.5	48.5	47.5	48.5	939,800
China Banking Corp.	765	765	760	760	370
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.5	0.51	1,380,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50	50	49	49	168,500
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	26,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	30	29	29	897,300
Philippine National Bank	43	44	43	44	64,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11	11	11	11	6,000
Security Bank Corp.	24.5	24.5	24	24	55,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	28	28.5	55,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2690	2690	2690	2690	160
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	312,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	150	150	150	150	500
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1895	1905	1895	1905	2,580
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	144,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.06	1.06	1	1.02	7,721,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	800	800	795	800	54,670
Ipeople Inc.	3.75	3.9	3.75	3.9	46,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.045	0.048	0.045	0.048	4,600,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3	2.8	2.8	5,181,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1625	1635	1610	1620	260,710
Ivantage Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.6	0.6	750,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	33,200,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	10,100
Manila Electric Co. B	22.25	22.25	21.5	21.5	585,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.2	6.3	2,859,000
Petron Corp.	3	3	2.9	2.95	3,284,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.8	1.8	55,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	263,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.54	1.54	60,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.6	2,878,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.62	0.62	270,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.02	5,005,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.49	0.5	1,120,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.05	3.05	2.8	2.85	1,073,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.7	3.75	46,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	2,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	29.5	29.5	28.5	29	258,400
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	80,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58.5	60	58	60	396,800
San Miguel Corp. B	92	95	92	94	159,100
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16.25	16	16.25	73,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	14,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0085	0.0075	0.0085	31,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	4,000,000
Atok-Big Wedge.,Inc. B	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	10,000
Ayala Corp.	320	320	307.5	315	142,090
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	2,150,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.75	4.85	4.75	4.85	149,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	3,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.88	1.92	1,497,000
APC Group Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.2	0.25	630,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	115,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.11	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	0.96	0.99	30,094,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.2	0.17	0.2	2,850,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.24	0.24	0.22	0.22	1,500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.44	2.44	2.38	2.44	1,865,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.025	0.025	6,100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.12	1.16	1,297,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.1	7.1	6.6	6.6	457,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	47	47	45	45.5	864,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	250,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0625	0.065	3,600,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1	1	1	1	48,000
Ionics Inc.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.18	345,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.6	1,348,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	30,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	2,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	3,200,000
Medco Holdings	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.3	1.3	6,748,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.31	0.32	50,460,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	570,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	540,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	460,000
SM Investments Corp.	255	255	252.5	255	551,320
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.15	2,540,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.2	1,140,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.22	32,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	170,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHERS					
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.02	1.08	27,793,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5	5	5	5	2,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.08	1.08	1,256,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.2	75,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.25	0.25	120,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	65,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.5	503,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	15,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.8	31,352,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.23	0.235	4,680,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.18	0.18	1,560,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.33	0.34	9,550,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.42	1.38	1.4	10,850,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.11	1,330,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	50,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	350,000
SM Development Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	6,103,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	114,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.4	5.4	5	5.1	542,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	4,070,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.35	0.35	0.32	0.33	15,690,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	174,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.018	312,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.005	0.0055	177,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.85	0.86	0.82	0.86	1,060,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.97	0.97	0.91	0.95	3,700,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	24.75	25.5	24.25	25.5	2,177,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	240,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	35,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	20,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	600,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	320,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.7	2.75	2.65	2.75	106,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.135	8,900,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	15,120,810	143,037,170.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	377,337,690	948,302,745.00
PRO	65,955,000	310,449,060.00
Mining	805,279,200	77,415,700.00
OIL	65,926,000	2,085,400.00
SME	3,000	9,600.00
GRAND TOTALS :	1,329,621,700	1,481,299,675.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	551.76	DOWN 8.41
Comm'l & Ind'l	3,035.80	DOWN 30.18
PRO	706.62	DOWN 15.42
Mining	2,610.84	DOWN 209.52
OIL	2.30	DOWN 0.17
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,173.99	DOWN 13.21
Composite	1,924.23	DOWN 20.89

NO. OF ADVANCES: 15; NO. OF DECLINES: 90; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 21; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 126; NO. OF TRADES: 4,072

DISCLOSURES

ARIES Prime Resources Inc. elected as directors Ferdinand Domingo, Balligi Fonacier, Celso Modina, Peter Francis Zagala, Maritess Calzado, Francis Orena, Dolores Bautista, Joel Banares, Rolando Castro, Rodrigo Castelo and Joven Pulido. It appointed C.L. Manabat & Co. as external auditor.

***

SUPERCITY Realty Development Corp. elected as directors Arthur Lim, Mylene Lim, Wilfredo Uy, Ferdinand Soliman, Malia Paredes, Noric Terence Ng and Jean Cestina. It appointed Punongbayan and Araullo as external auditors.

***

TRANSPACIFIC Broadband Group International Inc. elected Arsenio Ng as chair, president and chief executive officer; Hilario Ng as vice president and chief financial officer; Mario Mina as corporate secretary, and Paul Saria as assistant corporate secretary, chief operating officer and compliance officer.

***

PICOP Resources Inc. said it would accept director Cornelio Mapa's resignation, submitted on June 29, only upon the election of his replacement.

***

ROXAS Holdings Inc. extended the term of its president Miguel Gaspar, until his successor is elected.

***

JOLLIVILLE Holdings Corp. elected as directors Jolly Ting, Rodolfo See, Nanette Ongcarranceja, Ortrud Ting, Lourdes Ting, Dexter Quintana and Rolando Tuazon.

***

THE PHILODRILL Corp. elected as directors Alfredo Ramos, Presentacion Ramos, Augusto Sunico, Maximo Licauco III, Christopher Gotanco, Walter Brown, Gerard Brimo, Nicasio Alcantara and Honorio Poblador III.

Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

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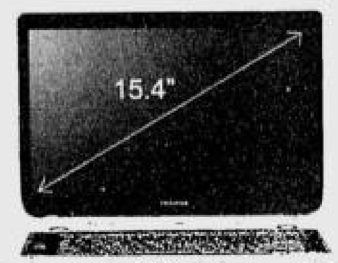

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Wide-screen display with mind-blowing multimedia horsepower.

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- Intel® PRO/Wireless Network Connection 802.11g
- Microsoft® Windows® Home Edition
- Microsoft® Office OneNoteTM 2003
- Toshiba ConfigFreeTM Connectivity Doctor
- 512MB DDR SDRAM / 40GB HDD with shock absorber
- Large 15.4" (39.1cm) WXGA TFT display
- NVIDIA® GeForceTM FX Go5200 with 32MB Video RAM
- DVD/CD-RW combo drive
- SD slot, 3 x USB 2.0, I.LINK (IEEE1394), Fast InfraRed, and TV-Out port
- Internal harman/kardon® stereo speakers
- Cool magnesium chassis at 2.8kg
- 1-Year carry-in International Limited Warranty (parts and labor)

SRP: P99,990 w/ Trade-In Price: P84,990

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15.0" Clear SuperView Display Technology for enhanced brightness, contrast, color brilliance, unique anti-glare technology and usable wide viewing angle.

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- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home Edition
- Microsoft® Office OneNoteTM 2003
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SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

The following **Members of the Board of Management of Audi AG** and its **Area Sales Manager** were issued **Warrants of Arrest** by the Regional Trial Court of Alaminos City in Criminal Case No. 4824-A for **ESTAFA thru Falsification of Public Documents:**

Dr. Martin Winterkorn

Dr. Horst Neumann

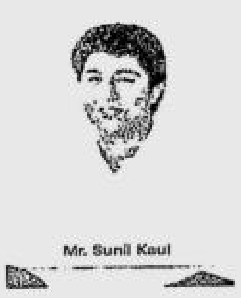
Dr. Andreas Schleef

Mr. Erich Schmitt

Mr Rupert Stadler

Dr. Jochem Heizmann

Mr Ralph Weyler


Mr. Sunil Kaul

The above-cited AUDI AG Board Members and Area Sales Manager continuously **remain at large** and are now **considered fugitives** before the Philippine Courts of Law. Any information that will lead to their whereabouts and arrests would be greatly appreciated.

ATTY. PURITA HONTANOSAS-CORTES
Counsel for Auto Prominence Corporation
2nd Floor, APC Building
2326 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City

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- **BIOLIFE EXHIBIT:** Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m., July 1-2 and July 4-7 at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) auditorium, Department of Agriculture compound, Visayas Avenue cor. Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
- **TECHNOLOGY SHOPPING SEMINAR:** July 1, 1:00 p.m. at the BSWM lobby.
- **BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR JUSTICE:** FORENSIC DNA: July 4 at the Department of Interior and Local Government
- **OPTIMIZING TECHNOLOGY, MAXIMIZING PROFIT - FARMER TO FARMER EXCHANGE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY:** July 6, Sta. Maria Pangasinan
- **LAUNCHING OF THE BIOTECHNOLOGY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CENTER and INTELLLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS SEMINAR:** July 5, Philippine Rice Research Insitute, Muñoz, Nueva Ecija
- **SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM ON BIOTECHNOLOGY:** July 7, BSWM auditorium. Registration starts at 8 a.m.

For inquiries, please call/fax the Biotechnology Week secretariat, c/o Director Alicia Ilga Ilaga, Department of Agriculture-Biotechnology Program Implementation Unit, with tel.no. 927-0426.
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DOF to lift automatic guarantee on GOCC loans

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said it would no longer provide automatic sovereign guarantee to the borrowings of state-owned firms.

According to Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, government-owned and -controlled corporations that are hoping to pursue borrowing activities, will now have to come up with formal plans and defend these plans before the DOF.

"There will be no automatic guarantee for the moment," Purisima said in a speech during the Philippine Business Leaders Forum the other day. "We will have to first sit down with them (GOCC officials) and see what the plan is."

The country's finance chief said the removal of the automatic guarantee would keep state-owned firms from taking it for granted, and would force them to become more responsible in managing their finances.

Purisima said one GOCC recently requested a sovereign guarantee from the DOF. But he told officials of the state-owned firm to first present its borrowing plan to the DOF.

He said the DOF would no longer tolerate the practices of GOCCs, particularly those suffering heavy losses.

He said that the losses were to blame for the country's fiscal woes.

The DOF and the Department of Budget and Management are now studying the financial standing of all the GOCCs to determine which of them would have to be streamlined or dissolved.

The agency has also started a program creating performance standards for GOCCs. The standards will be used to gauge the performance of the officials and employees of the state-owned firms.

In the first quarter, the DOF earlier reported, the combined deficits of the 14 DOF-monitored GOCCs reached P8.352 billion, an improvement from the P9.255 billion recorded during the same period last year.

The DOF noted that National Power Corp. contributed P5.6 billion worth of deficit in the first quarter, while the National Food Authority contributed P6.2 billion. On the other hand, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) posted a surplus of P5.8 billion.

The DOF had expressed confidence that the 14 GOCCs would post a much better fiscal position this year than from last year, with the introduction of stricter monitoring. The DOF said it was targeting to have the GOCC deficits significantly reduced to P42.5 billion this year compared with last year's figure of P90.7 billion.

RP is not an agricultural economy

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

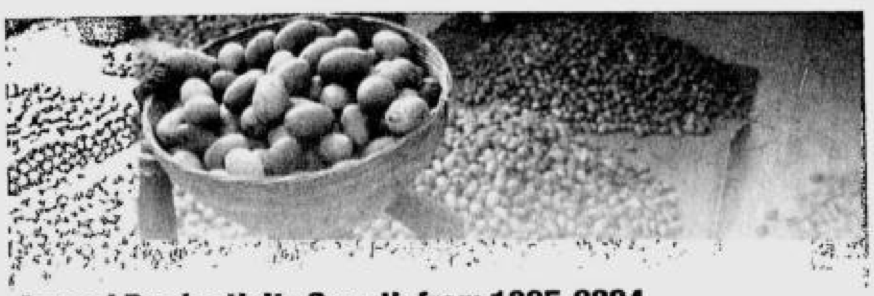
COMMENTARY

"ALTHOUGH many still think of the Philippines as an agricultural economy, strictly speaking it is not."

This was according to former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Cielito Habito and Ateneo Economics Professor Roehlano M. Briones, in a paper presented last June 27 during the "Workshop on Policies to Strengthen Productivity in the Philippines" at the AIM Conference Center in Makati.

According to the paper, agriculture, fishery and forestry account for just 20 percent of the economy's gross domestic product (GDP).

Since services accounts for 45 percent of the GDP, and industry accounts for 35 percent, it is argued that we really have a services, not an agricultural, economy.



Annual Productivity Growth from 1995-2004

	Bananas	Pineapples	Mangoes
Country	Percent Growth	Percent Growth	Percent Growth
China	4.1	(1.4)	3.2
Indonesia	1.2	(3.7)	4.3
Malaysia	2.2	1.9	(2.6)
Philippines	3.2	7.8	(0.1)
Thailand	(0.0)	(0.8)	0.2
Viet Nam	(1.3)	2.0	(4.4)

The importance of agriculture

However, we do have an agriculture-based economy. If we consider agro processing and agricultural inputs manufacturing, in addition to basic agricultural production, 70 percent of our jobs and 40 percent of our GDP come from agriculture, Dr. Bruce Tolentino said.

Habito and Briones cited the importance of agriculture in our overall economic development: "First, it provides food and vital raw materials for the rest of the economy; second, it provides a significant market for the non agricultural economy, as buyer of farm inputs as well as consumer goods and services produced in the non agricultural economy; and third, it releases surplus labor to the industry and the services sector."

Decreasing labor productivity

Yet in spite of agriculture's importance, our agricultural labor productivity is dismal compared to our neighboring countries.

In the same workshop, Professor Rolando Dy of the University of Asia and the Pacific presented the comparative labor productivity growth rates of five Asian countries as reported in the World Bank-World Development Report 2004.

Comparing the periods 1979-81 and 2000-02, the following were the growth rates: China, 110 percent; Malaysia, 76 percent; Thailand, 40 percent; Indonesia, 24 percent; and the Philippines, 6 percent.

We end up being the laggards with our growth not even reaching 6 percent.

There is some good news. In selected areas like bananas and pineapples, which are characterized through an agribusiness strategic approach using economies of scale, we are the leaders.

However, where there is a piecemeal approach with inadequate economies of scale such as in mangoes, we lag behind.

The table above shows information culled from the Food Agricultural Organization.

Agribusiness strategy

Comparing the banana and pineapple sectors with the mango sector, two significant differences are observed: an agribusiness strategy and economies of scale.

Ibarra Malonzo, president of the Kasanyangan Mindanao Foundation and an Alyansa Agrikultura leader, defined agribusiness strategy this way: "It is applying science and technology to farming, and market solutions to agriculture. It involves organizing and managing the supply chain from production (farm machinery, seeds, breeds, technology, credit), to post harvest (dryers, silos, slaughterhouses, refrigerated vans), to manufacture (flour and feed mill, corn flake factories), to transport (ships, ports, trucks, and RO-RO), and finally, marketing to deliver the goods to end-users or customers."

This agribusiness strategy is contained in the mango master plan developed in 2002 by the mango industry association and the Department of Agriculture.

But Renato Florencio, a mango industry leader who spearheaded the plan's formulation, says that much more government support is needed.

Economies of scale

Some argue that land reform will automatically decrease agricultural productivity. This is because economies of scale will be lost.

However, the banana and the pineapple lands were subjected to land reform, and their productivity further increased. This is because economies of scale can still be captured by consolidating the lands and having unified management. The same can also be done for mangoes and other agricultural products.

While several studies show land reform benefiting small farmers, there are several experiences where they are worse, rather than better, off. This is when the support services, previously provided by their former land owners, are withdrawn and not replaced by the government.

This is why the Alyansa Agrikultura, in their common agri-fishery agenda adopted by 39 national and local federations, advocates that land reform must always be accompanied by adequate support services. This will also make possible economies of scale.

More support

Though we do not have an agriculture economy in the strict sense, the fact that 70 percent of our labor force is directly dependent on agriculture should motivate us to give this sector the most importance in our economy. But the reverse has happened.

It is now critical that significantly more support be given to the twin thrusts of agribusiness strategy and economies of scale. Only then can we catch up with our Asian neighbors and regain our agricultural leadership in the region.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil @yahoo.com or telefax 8516635.)

NEW NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY

NOTICE

Expanded
VAT Law
R.A. 9337

In compliance with R.A. 9337 otherwise known as the Expanded VAT Law, the new North Luzon Expressway is constrained to collect 10% VAT on toll fees in behalf of the government.

Effective July 1, 2005, toll fees will include 10% VAT.

	OPEN SYSTEM			CLOSED SYSTEM		
	Toll fee (flat rate)	VAT 10%	**Total**	Toll fee (per km)	VAT 10%	**Total**
Class 1	41.82	4.18	**46.00**	2.48	0.25	**2.73***
Class 2	105.46	10.54	**116.00**	6.20	0.62	**6.82***
Class 3	126.37	12.63	**139.00**	7.45	0.75	**8.20***

** Actual toll rates per destination may be rounded down. This will effectively reduce toll fees to the advantage of motorists.*

NEW TOLL RATES
INCLUSIVE OF 10% VAT
(rounded down)

CLASS 1 (Cars / Jeepneys)

Toll Plaza/Interchanges	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	MXC	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Valenzuela	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lawang Bato	46	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meycauayan	46	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marilao	46	46	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bocaue (NB)	46	46	46	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bocaue (SB)	56	56	56	56								
Tabang	82	82	82	82	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sta. Rita	85	85	85	85	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulilan	104	104	104	104	48	18	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Simon	136	136	136	136	80	50	31	-	-	-	-	-
San Fernando	160	160	160	160	104	74	56	24	-	-	-	-
Mexico	179	179	179	179	123	93	74	44	19	-	-	-
Angeles	202	202	202	202	146	116	97	66	41	23	-	-
Dau	223	223	223	223	166	137	118	86	62	42	19	-
Sta. Ines	223	223	223	223	166	137	118	86	62	42	19	14

CLASS 2 (Bus / Trucks)

Toll Plaza/Interchanges	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	MXC	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	116	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Valenzuela	116	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lawang Bato	116	116	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meycauayan	116	116	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marilao	116	116	116	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bocaue (NB)	116	116	116	116	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bocaue (SB)	141	141	141	141								
Tabang	206	206	206	206	64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sta. Rita	215	215	215	215	73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulilan	261	261	261	261	119	46	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Simon	342	342	342	342	199	126	79	-	-	-	-	-
San Fernando	402	402	402	402	259	187	139	60	-	-	-	-
Mexico	451	451	451	451	308	234	188	108	48	-	-	-
Angeles	508	508	508	508	366	292	245	166	105	57	-	-
Dau	557	557	557	557	415	342	295	216	156	107	49	-
Sta. Ines	557	557	557	557	415	342	295	216	156	107	49	36

CLASS 3 (Trailers / Large Trucks)

Toll Plaza/Interchanges	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	MXC	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Valenzuela	139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lawang Bato	139	139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meycauayan	139	139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marilao	139	139	139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bocaue (NB)	139	139	139	139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bocaue (SB)	170	170	170	170								
Tabang	247	247	247	247	77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sta. Rita	258	258	258	258	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulilan	314	314	314	314	144	56	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Simon	410	410	410	410	239	151	95	-	-	-	-	-
San Fernando	482	482	482	482	312	224	168	72	-	-	-	-
Mexico	540	540	540	540	369	281	225	130	58	-	-	-
Angeles	609	609	609	609	438	350	294	199	126	69	-	-
Dau	669	669	669	669	499	411	355	259	187	128	60	-
Sta. Ines	669	669	669	669	499	411	355	259	187	128	60	42

SEGMENT 7 (Subic-Tipo) - 8.5kms	
Class 1	23
Class 2	58
Class 3	69

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BUSINESSBRIEFS

US GDP rises 3.8% in Q1

WASHINGTON—Even in the face of high energy prices, the United States economy turned in a solid performance in the first quarter of 2005, suggesting the expansion should stay on firm footing. The gross domestic product, the broadest measure of economic standing, increased at an annual rate of 3.8 percent from January through March, according to revised figures released by the Commerce Department on Wednesday. In the opening quarter of 2005, the GDP climbed to $11.1 trillion on an annualized basis, adjusted for inflation. *AP*

A more flexible yuan

SEOUL—China's currency policy of pegging the yuan to the dollar will fuel inflation and the country should move to make the yuan flexible, according to a senior official of the International Monetary Fund. "They are accumulating very large reserves and that is going to put inflationary pressure on the economy," said IMF First Managing Director Anne Krueger at a forum in Seoul on Thursday. The yuan has been pegged at about 8.3 per dollar for a decade. *Reuters*

Petronas weighed down

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian energy firm Petronas on Thursday said that the gas price subsidies to the country's power producers had cost it 25.5 billion ringgit ($6.7 billion) in revenue since they were introduced in May 1997. Malaysia introduced regulated prices of natural gas for the power sector to help keep a lid on electricity tariffs. *Reuters*

Awash in Asian shoes

BRUSSELS—The European Commission opened a probe on Thursday into possible dumping of Chinese and Indian shoes into the 25-member European Union, a spokesperson said. "If as a result of the investigation started today, it is demonstrated that predatory prices are practiced then action will be considered," said Claude Veron-Reville, the Commission's spokeswoman for trade. The probe began at the request of European manufacturers and could take as long as 15 months. *Reuters*

Oil prices hover above $57/barrel

Esso
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THAI models promote a credit card that offers a discount on gas filling, at a station in downtown Bangkok. Oil prices edged higher in Asian trade following two days of sharp falls that had seen the market pull back from record highs. AFP

SINGAPORE—Oil prices hovered above $57 a barrel early on Thursday as traders looked to slow a two-day rout brought on by a wave of speculative profit-taking and an unexpected rise in US crude oil stockpiles.

Oil prices were up 9 cents at $57.35 a barrel by midday in Asia, having touched a nearly two-week low of $56.90 on Wednesday. Prices have fallen 5 percent in the past two days, a steep tumble from the record high of $60.95 scored on Monday.

Wednesday's weekly US inventory report showed near record crude imports by the world's top consumer helping boost stocks by 1.1 million barrels, despite refineries operating near capacity.

"Obviously, crude stocks building when refiners run flat-out—as they are now—is bearish crude," said SG Commodities in a report.

Utilization rates rose 1.5 percentage points to 96.3 percent, helping boost stocks of distillates, the high-demand fuel group that includes diesel and heating oil, by 1.7 million barrels, the US Energy Information Administration report showed.

While the report showed four-week average demand growth for distillates easing to 5.7 percent from nearly 7 percent the previous week, the relatively robust level left traders anxious over refiners' ability to meet demand later this year.

Global economic growth will slow to 3 percent this year from 4.1 percent last year due to high energy prices and rising interest rates, UN forecasters said on Wednesday. The UN is the latest group to see soaring oil blunting, but not derailing, expansion.

With growth seen intact in spite of oil prices averaging $50 for the past 10 months, speculators are determined to test the limits of what economies can withstand, pushing prices higher until they see a marked cooling in oil demand.

Speculative hedge funds and investors, who have been ploughing money into a range of commodities over the past two years, have also cashed in profits this week, partly due to end-of-quarter bookkeeping, traders said.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries has started talks this week on raising output by 500,000 barrels per day (bpd), but even cartel members admit that more crude will not resolve the refinery bottlenecks driving prices.

"We don't believe it will contribute at all," Venezuelan Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez said on Wednesday.

Opec could decide on the increase this week, pending a cartel study on supply and demand, the group's president said. *Reuters*

Asia stocks subdued ahead of expected rise in US interest rates

SINGAPORE—The dollar was close to a 9-month high against the yen on Thursday ahead of an expected rise in US interest rates, boosting shares in Asian exporters which were also helped by solid US growth data.

But Asian stock markets in general were subdued, with a quarter-point Federal Reserve rate rise to 3.25 percent already priced in to share prices and investors waiting to see if the US central bank would continue to talk about raising rates at "a measured pace."

Seoul stood out among Asian stock markets, its Korea Composite Stock Price Index ending up 0.9 percent as the won fell in line with the yen and some investors speculated the Fed could signal that monetary tightening would end soon.

In Tokyo, Toyota Motor Corp. added 1.3 percent and Nissan Motor Co. gained 0.6 percent as exporters were lifted by the weaker yen.

The Nikkei share average ended at 11,584.01, up just 0.06 percent on the day, but its highest close in 11 weeks.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index fell 0.6 percent in early afternoon trade.

MSCI's index of non-Japan Asian share markets was up 0.53 percent at 0610 GMT, while its technology component was up 0.54 percent.

In the United States on Wednesday, the Dow Jones industrial average ended down 0.30 percent. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index dipped 0.05 percent. *Reuters*

LRTA posts ₱300M in losses

RISING fuel costs and other expenses derailed the finances of the Light Rail Transit Authority in the first quarter, forcing the LRTA to register a net loss of P302 million during the period.

The LRTA's losses this year was three times more than P103 million in the first quarter of 2004.

From January to March, the LRTA generated P485 million in revenue from the two railway lines that it operates. Expenses for the period reached P787 million.

The LRTA said that without the P10 increase in fares that it had sought since March 2003, the government would end up subsidizing each passenger by an average of P58.

This subsidy would translate to P10.9 billion this year.

In the first quarter, the breakeven fare was P23.05. But the LRTA is collecting only a minimum fare of P12 for the two lines.

The price of fuel had gone up by almost half since the last time the LRTA raised its fees. Power accounts for more than 30 percent of operating costs.

The railway agency hopes that revenue from rail operations will increase by 70 percent this year to about P2.8 billion against the P1.66 billion posted in 2004.

Clarissa S. Batino

Cocktales

From page B3

suming office. Locsin himself chose a Jaguar X saloon, no less.

- GMA-7, in a reaction to a Monday item here, says its news readers and staffers are prohibited from taking on political and PR consultancies but are free to endorse commercial products and services, subject to prior clearance from the management.

In the same Monday column, ABS-CBN reporter Carmelita "Twinkle" Valdez was erroneously identified as a former secretary of the late ABS-CBN patriarch Eugenio Lopez Jr. Valdez was actually a telephone operator of the network before she was reassigned to the news staff.

Heard through the grapevine

FORMER Tourism Secretary Vicente "Vince" Carlos returned to the country yesterday, looking refreshed from his unexpected weekend stay at the San Francisco Federal Hilton, courtesy of a Las Vegas casino.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

SEC poises management . . .

From page B3

percent to P1.44 billion from P1.54 billion.

Life plans managed to buck the trend as sales grew for 18.8 percent to P309.27 million in April from P260.3 million.

The number of plans sold across the sector also shrank 25.2 percent to 33,252.

Total education plans sold in April declined 60.9 percent to 4,352 while pension plans slid 37.2 percent to 16,074. Only life plans grew 66 percent to 16,074.

Ayalas to venture . . .

From page B1

loc plant for $561.74 million.

PSALM is also working on auctioning the 25-year concession agreement for National Transmission Corp.

The Ayala conglomerate has not yet set a concrete acquisition plan for its planned foray into the power sector. All aspects of the sector, including generation and transmission, were being explored and reviewed.

The group is also monitoring developments in the yet-to-be-implemented wholesale electricity spot market to enable it to prepare for the possible implications of the electricity bourse on its overall business, should it decide to really plunge into the power industry.

Right now, the conglomerate has interests in real estate, financial services, telecommunications, electronics and information technology, water infrastructure development and management, automotive and international operations.

Ayala Corp. registered a consolidated net income of P2.55 billion in the first quarter, triple the profits it posted in the same period last year.

The group attributed its strong performance to the substantial earnings contribution of key subsidiaries Globe Telecom Inc., Ayala Land Inc., and Bank of the Philippine Islands.

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PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

DAY ONE - 4 JULY
BEYOND GIVING . . . INTEGRATING

8:00 am **REGISTRATION**

9:00 am **OPENING of EXHIBITS**

9:30 am **OPENING CEREMONIES** *(By Invitation)*
Global Perspective: Louis Willem "TEX" Gunning, Group Vice-President - Southeast Asia & Australasia, Unilever Asia Pte. Ltd.
National Perspective: Jose Antonio Aboitiz, Chief Financial Officer, Aboitiz Food Group

12:30 pm **LUNCHEON & PLENARY** by the Ayala Group of Companies *(By Invitation)* • *Speaker:* **Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr.**, President, Globe Telecom, Inc.

2:00 - 3:30 pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

CS 1: Bringing CSR into the Boardroom: The Role of the CEO in Determining a Company's Social Agenda • *Panel Discussion:* **Ramon del Rosario Jr.**, President, Phinma, Inc.; **Warner Manning**, CEO, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation; **Pacita Juan**, CEO, Figaro Coffee Co.
CS 2: Making CSR an Integral Part of the Corporation's Culture • *Panel Discussion:* **Rosario Ventura**, Corporate Responsibility Manager, Asia, Intel Technology Philippines; **Leonisa dela Llana**, FVP & Head, HR & Corporate Services, Meralco; **Eve Lwembe**, National Volunteering Development Officer, VSO Jitolee, Kenya
CS 3: Prosperity at the Bottom of the Pyramid • *Speaker:* **Prof. Tommy Lopez**, AIM Center for Entrepreneurship • *Reactor:* **Emma Lim-Sandrino**, Executive Director, Foundation for Sustainable Society

4:00 pm **AFTERNOON PLENARY**
Integrating CSR into the Core Business: Stand for Something . . . or Stand for Nothing • *Speaker:* **Jude Mannion**, Founder & CEO, Robin Hood Foundation, New Zealand

6:00 pm **FELLOWSHIP NIGHT** *(By Invitation)* co-presented by Microsoft Philippines and League of Corporate Foundations

DAY TWO - 5 JULY
BEYOND GIVING . . . ENRICHING

7:30 am - **LCF Breakfast with Jude Mannion** (By Invitation) hosted by Mirant Philippines Foundation

8:30 am - **REGISTRATION**

9:00 am - **MORNING PLENARY 1: Looking Into Business Solutions to Public Education Problems**
Business Sector Initiatives in Education: Aniceto Sobrepeña, Executive Vice President & Executive Director, Metrobank Foundation and Former Lead Convenor, Trisectoral Conference on Educational Reforms • **Business & Education: Unleashing New Value in Education through Corporate Philanthropy & Public-Private Partnership: Usec. Juan Miguel Luz**, Department of Education

10:20 am **CONCURRENT SESSIONS: Cases of Business Solutions to Education Problems** • *Introduction to the Concurrent Sessions:* **Prof. Ernesto Garilao**, Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Graduate School of Business/ Executive Director, AIM-Mirant Center for Bridging Societal Divides
CS 1: ICT Solutions • *Panel Discussion:* **GILAS** or Gearing Up Internet Literacy & Access for Students; **Connectivity of Schools** by Innove; and **Partners in Learning** by Microsoft, PBSP, and Learn.ph
CS 2: Business Solutions Case Presentations • *Panel Discussion:* Nokia: Media Master; Intel People's PC, and Knowledge Channel Foundation
CS 3: Using Business Expertise Case Presentations • *Panel Discussion:* **Teacher Training Program in English** by Convergys; **Lingap Eskwela** by Manila Water ; and **Bright Minds Read Program** by Ronald McDonald House Charities:

MORNING PLENARY 2: Toward System-Wide/Business Solutions
IModerator: **Prof. Ernesto Garilao**, AIM Graduate School of Business/ Executive Director, AIM-Mirant Center for Bridging Societal Divides • *Response from the Department of Education:* **Sec. Florencio Abad**

12:30 pm **LUNCHEON & PLENARY: Business Solutions to Social Problems** by Mirant Philippines and The World Bank • *Speakers:* **Joachim Von Amsberg**, Country Director, World Bank Office, Manila and **Sec. Raphael Lotilla**, Department of Energy (invited)

2:15 - 3:45 pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS
CS 1: Business Solutions Addressing Health Issues of Public Schools & the Community by the LCF Health Committee • *Speakers:* **Dr. Cynthia Cuayo-Julco**, Chair, CSR Committee on Community Outreach, Manila Doctors Hospital; **Mao Navoa**, Associate Director, Disease Management, Pfizer (Philippines), Inc.; and **Alberto Lim**, President, Ten Knots Development Corp.
CS 2: Business Solutions to Environmental Problems by the LCF Environment Committee • *Speakers:* Former DENR Sec. **Elisea G. Gozun**, Chair, Earth Day Network Philippines; **Lisa Antonio**, Executive Director, Philippine Business for the Environment; **Jess Reyes**, AVP and Head, Environment & Safety, Nestlé Philippines; **Tony Casaclang**, President, Association of Food Chains and Environmental & Safety Engineer, Jollibee Foods Corporation; and **Oliver Gorrospe**, Business Development Manager, San Miguel Packaging Products
CS 3: Developing Socially Responsible Youth Business Leaders by the LCF Enterprise Development Committee • *Speakers:* **Nilo Cruz**, President, Junior Achievement of the Philippines, **Dr. Conrado Iñigo**, Chairman Emeritus, Philippine Council of Deans & Educators in Business; and **Ma. Teresa Tumbali**, Chair, LCF Enterprise Development Committee

2:30 - 4:00 pm **CS 4: Business Solutions to Barangay Electrification** • Speaker: **Usec. Melinda Ocampo**, Department of Energy

4:00 - 5:00 pm **Networking and Real-time Consulting**

5:30 pm **FELLOWSHIP NIGHT** *(By Invitation)* Cocktails

DAY THREE - 6 JULY
BEYOND GIVING . . . SUSTAINING

8:30 am **REGISTRATION**

9:00 am **MORNING PLENARY: Sustaining Business Action to Achieve the MDGs: Can a decade make a difference?** • *Opening Remarks:* **Ramesh Jain**, UN Resident Coordinator and Representative, UNFAO • *Speakers:* **Romulo Neri**, Director-General, NEDA; **Manuel Pangilinan**, Chair, PBSP; **Pedro Roxas**, Chair, CADP Group Corporation; and **Allen Hammond**, UNDP New York (invited)

11:00 am **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
CS 1: Market-Driven Scholarship Program: The Toyota Experience and **Holcim Philippines' Galing Mason, Building Solid Foundations for our Communities Program** • *Speaker:* **Ramon Ventura Jr.**, Project Officer, Toyota Foundation; **Roel John Judilla**, Dean, Mapua IT - School of Mechanical Engineering; **Zita Diez**, CSR & Communications Head, Holcim Philippines
CS 2: Leveraging Core Competencies: The Vietnam Pushcarts Program • *Speakers:* **Stuart Hawkins**, Public Affairs Manager, Coca-Cola Asia and **Huynh T. My Tien**, Corporate Citizenship Manager, Coca-Cola Southeast Asia
CS 3: The Bottom-of-the-Pyramid (BOP) SMART Case • *Speaker:* **Ramon Isberto**, Head of Public Affairs, Smart Communications

12:30 pm **LUNCHEON & PLENARY: Philippine Government's Blueprint on Entrepreneurship** (By Invitation) • *Speaker:* **Usec. Amelia Alonzo**, SME Development, Department of Trade and Industry

2:00 - 3:00 pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
CS 1: Communicating CSR • *Speakers:* **Marilou Erni**, Executive Director, Petron Foundation, **Regina Lopez**, Managing Director, ABS-CBN Foundation, **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**, President, Philippine Daily Inquirer
CS 2: Measuring the Impact of CSR Programs (Global Framework) • *Speaker:* **Ma. Divina G. de Leon**, Social Development Manager, Pilipinas Shell Foundation

3:15 - 4:45 pm CSR WORKSHOP: De-Constructing CSR • *Speaker:* **Jude Mannion**, Founder & CEO, Robin Hood Foundation, New Zealand

5:00 pm **INTEGRATION & CLOSING CEREMONIES** • *Speaker:* **Victoria Garchitorena**, Chair, League of Corporate Foundations and President, Ayala Foundation

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'CloseUp To Fame' airs on ABS-CBN

TV'S HOTTEST new reality show began airing June 25, 4:30 p.m. at ABS-CBN and will continue to chronicle the progress of its featured finalists for the next 13 Saturdays. CloseUp recently introduced the new show, titled "CloseUp To Fame: The Search for the Next CloseUp Couple", to the media in a glow-in-the-dark launch party at club Embassy, at the Fort. Hosted by "Wazzup Wazzup" heartthrob Drew Arellano and multi-talented "it" girl Iya Villania, the launch talked about the talent search that was conducted nationwide to find CloseUp's next star endorsers.

After combing the country for dazzling smiles and winning personalities that embody the CloseUp spirit, the choice is now down to 24 finalists--12 girls and 12 guys-who will vie for the chance to star in the next CloseUp commercial, and a combined P1 million worth of prizes. Only one pair of contenders will remain as the newest CloseUp couple at the end of the show's 13-week run.

Hosted by former CloseUp personality Heart Evangelista and heartthrob Geoff Eigenmann, the reality show will follow all 24 finalists, aged 18 to 23, as they undergo various challenges that uncover their CloseUp potential.

Viewers can look forward to the show's line-up of remarkable vignettes such as the Final 24's journey from their respective hometowns to the impressive CloseUp headquarters, which serves as the "command center" where friendships are made, challenges are assigned, and futures are determined. Of special interest to die-hard pop culture fanatics would be the episode wherein the 24 finalists are asked to remake popular CloseUp commercials through the decades.

Guiding the Final 24 on their quest to CloseUp stardom is the "CloseUp to Fame" critics comprised of former CloseUp model Plinky Recto, director Lino Cayetano and a weekly celebrity or industry critic. Criteria for judging are as follows: 40 percent for actual performance and 60 percent from viewer text votes. Each week, the couple with the lowest ratings and the lowest text votes will be eliminated from the contest.

To vote for their favorite CloseUp couple, viewers must purchase any stickered CloseUp product and send "Close_Up <name>,<sticker code>,<contestant's number>" to 2256. Each variant has a corresponding number of text votes. Each text vote is also considered one raffle entry registered to the viewer's mobile number. Winners of the CloseUp to fame raffle promo are set to win cool prizes each week, including a brand new Mazda 3 in the grand draw. Promo begins July 2 and ends at 12 noon of Sep. 14.

ONLY one pair will be declared as the newest CloseUp couple at the end of the 13-week run

The pathophysiology of cardiac ischemia

WITH an ever-increasing incidence of heart attacks and strokes, medical experts are reactivating their public education campaign to increases awareness on the risk factors causing these problems.

"Ischemia is a situation in which blood flow is restricted," explains Dr. Esperanza Cabral, immediate past president of the Philippine Society of Hypertension and the chair of the newly organized Council for Women's Health of the Philippine Heart Association. It can occur in the heart (cardiac ischemia) as well as in many other areas of the body.

"Reduced blood flow to the brain, for example, is called cerebral ischemia, which can lead to a stroke or brain attack. Ischemia in the liver and kidneys are called hepatic ischemia and renal ischemia, respectively," says Cabral. In lower limbs (i.e., the legs), ischemia can cause pain when walking (claudication) or even more severe problems such as gangrene.

Cardiac ischemia, which is reduced blood flow to the heart, is usually the result of the build-up of plaque in the blood vessels of the heart (coronary arteries). In many cases, cardiac ischemia has no symptoms (silent ischemia).

In these patients, it is all the more important to identify the ischemia before a major heart-related health concern, such as a heart attack or sudden death, occurs. Most other patients experience a kind of chest discomfort or pain called angina pectoris with their ischemia.

Episodes of angina may last between two and 20 minutes. The discomfort or pain is often described as "crushing" or "heaviness." It is usually brought on by exertion and relieved by rest.

Minor episodes of cardiac ischemia cause little long-term damage to the heart of some patients, but these episodes can cause serious effects in others. They can cause abnormal heart rhythms (arrhythmias), which can lead to either syncope (fainting) or cardiac arrest (the abrupt inability of the heart to pump blood) and sudden death. Severe or lengthy episodes can trigger a heart attack.

The collective effects of minor episodes of cardiac ischemia can potentially lead to a weakening of the heart muscles (cardiomyopathy) and reduced ability of the heart to pump blood (heart failure).

Limitation of blood flow to the heart causes the heart (myocardial) muscles to starve for oxygen and other nutrients. The heart muscles must then extract as much of the oxygen as it can and use it as efficiently as possible in order to continue functioning and survive. When heart muscles die from lack of oxygen, this is called a myocardial infarction (commonly called a heart attack). A myocardial infarction can lead to reduced ability of the heart to function (heart failure) and even sudden death.

Myocardial infarction usually results from the sudden occlusion of a coronary artery when an atheromatous plaque (that collection of cholesterol, calcium and cellular debris that builds up within the coronary artery walls) ruptures and an ensuing blood clot fills the lumen of the artery. Myocardial infarction is also caused, less commonly, by spasm of the artery wall occluding the lumen, a condition also associated with atheromatous plaques.

To prevent myocardial infarction, heart experts recommend healthy lifestyle changes consisting of diet and exercise. Drugs, including beta-blockers, nitrates, antiplatelet drugs, and ACE inhibitors are given. A new treatment approach gaining ground among heart experts is based on metabolic manipulation, which switches the fuels used for energy production from the more oxygen-wasting fatty acids to the more oxygen-sparing glucose. Trimetazidine is one such agent that induces this "metabolic shift", thus permitting the heart cells to manufacture more energy molecules called adenosine triphosphate (ATP) with less oxygen.

Many clinical trials involving over a thousand patients with coronary artery disease have shown that trimetazidine reduces anginal symptoms as well as objective evidence of myocardial ischemia. With regards to heart attack, a study done in Europe enrolling 19,725 AMI patients demonstrated that, among those patients who did not receive thrombolysis, treatment with trimetazidine led to improved outcomes at 35 days with less cardiac deaths and complications from heart attack.

APJF, PENSHOPPE IN GALA PRESENTATION

The Aurelio Periquet Jr Foundation (APJF) signed an agreement with Penshoppe to be the official outfitter of the Imperial Brass from the Imperial College London featuring young Filipino talent Alaric Saludo. Present during the signing were (from left) Penshoppe marketing manager Gigi Tibi, APJF president Anna Marie Periquet, and chair of the project's organizing committee Noemi Saludo. The gala presentation of 'Just Brass: Imperial Brass in Manila' will be held on July 1 at the Edsa Shangri-La Isla Ballroom. For ticket inquiries, call 533-9338 or 535-5428.

JASMINE TRIAS AT THE LINDEN SUITES

Jasmine Trias was guest of honor at the recent ribbon-cutting ceremony marking The Linden Suites' 5th anniversary and inauguration of its new lobby. Shown with Ms Trias are Alfred Reyes (left) and Lynette Quinto-Ermac, general manager and assistant director for sales and marketing of The Linden Suites, respectively.

DMCI Homes turns over Bonifacio Heights to AFP

DMCI Homes, the real estate business unit of construction giant DM Consunji Inc, has turned over Phase 1 of Bonifacio Heights to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Bonifacio Heights is a medium-rise condominium development in Fort Bonifacio exclusively for the Armed Forces personnel. This project is jointly undertaken by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), Home Development Mutual Fund, Department of National Defense, AFP and DMCI Homes.

Unique to a DMCI Homes development, Bonifacio Heights boasts of the finest home designs, first-class amenities and ideal neighborhood at a price that is merely a fraction of prevailing costs in the areas adjacent to it. DMCI Homes, utilizing internal funds, has already completed Phase 1 in a matter of five months. Fast-paced construction allowed immediate completion of 220 walk-up condominium units that are now ready for occupancy. Fifteen more buildings are soon to be constructed and turned over to the AFP. Pag-Ibig will then provide a mechanism to facilitate the take-out of the project through a special window for AFP personnel.

Bonifacio Heights gives the members of the AFP the opportunity to live in the premier neighborhood of Fort Bonifacio, the Philippines' newest business district that is also home to some of the country's most luxurious residential condominiums and upscale restaurants.

STANDING at left is Vice President and HUDCC Chair Noli de Castro giving a speech at the turnover rites attended by (seated from left) AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren L. Abu, Defense Sec. Avelino J. Cruz Jr, HUDCC Vice Chair Amado Bagatsing, Pag-Ibig President Romero Quimbo, DMCI Homes president Isidro A. Consunji and HGC president Gonzalo Benjamin Bongolan.

Bits Clips

Creba-La Salle course

THE POST-BACCALAUREATE diploma program in real estate management under a consortium between the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) and the De La Salle College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB) through its School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPaCE) will open its sixth module titled "Real Estate Financing and Investments" on July 2. Initiated in 2002, the program, open to present and would-be real estate practitioners, aims to provide updates and enhance the competence of brokers, appraisers, consultants and other professionals in marketing, laws and taxation, planning and development, property management, financing and investments. Rolando E. Valenzuela, chief risk officer and vice president of the Export & Industry Bank, is course coordinator for the module. The module will run for six Saturdays, from July 2 to Aug. 6, equivalent to 42 academic units, from 12:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the 9th floor, College of Saint Benilde International Conference Center, Estrada corner Arellano Streets, Malate, Manila. Interested parties can call SPaCE at 400-5425 and 523-8888 local 34, or Creba at 373-2266 to 68.

TeleEye launched

TELEEYE Philippines Inc announces the launch of its sophisticated surveillance products on the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. (Affi) Exhibit from July 1 to 3 at the Megatrade Hall 1, 5th Level, Building B, SM Mega Mall. Products at the exhibit include: TeleEye III+ VX series-remote monitoring transmitter with removable hard drive for video recording and playback; TeleEye NF series-network camera for video surveillance via wireless LAN, GSM and GPRS; TeleEye DT series-remote video and audio dial-up transmitters with video transmission via PSTN, ISDN or GSM network. For free product demonstration and presentations, call 365-0897, 411-5264, or 361-1654. TeleEye Philippines Inc is also looking for master dealers for other areas of the Philippines. Interested parties can call Emmie at 0920-9265946.

Seminars on food business

MB&G/PROACTIVE is accepting reservations for the Managing a Restaurant/Canteen module slated for July 4 to 8, and the Managing a Catering Business module slated for July 11 to 15. Module sessions are to be held from 1 to 5 p.m. at Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. Reservations are being accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. For details, call Manu Oñaza at 687-1787 or 0915-4315375.

Photography as a hobby

THE FEDERATION of Philippine Photographers Foundation (FPPF) is conducting a series of basic and advanced photography courses in coordination with the Intramuros Administration and YKL Trading and Development. The 4-Sunday basic photo seminar starts July 3, while the 4-Saturday advanced course starts July 2 at the FPPF Chamber at Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. Lecturers are Vic Sison, Ador Pamintuan, Tony Raval, professor Cecilia Angeles, Ed Santiago and Tilak Hettige, a Sri Lankan. Call FPPF at 843-5341, 813-7420 and look for Lerma Aquino or Beverly Estrosas.

RP costumes at Ayala Museum

"MULTIPLE Originals, Original Multiples", an exhibition of 19th century images of Philippine costumes, showcases a watercolor album of Philippine costumes by Damian Domingo from the Newberry Library collection in Chicago; watercolor album of Philippine costumes by Justiniano Asuncion from the New York Public Library and the BPI collection; and the watercolor album of Philippine costumes attributed to the Damian Domingo atelier from the Ayala Museum collection and actual 19th century costumes from the collection of the Leiden Museum of Ethnology in The Netherlands. The exhibit will be on view until July 10. Ayala Museum is open from Tuesday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call 757-7117 local 14.

Forum for morbidly obese

IN 2004, an estimated 500,000 Filipinos were obese, many of them children. In the new-graded classification system set by the World Health Organization, a Body Mass Index of 30 kg/m2 or above denotes obesity. Extreme or morbid obesity is a BMI of greater than or equal to 40 kg/m2. In response to the need to address this problem, the Metropolitan Medical Center will stage a forum titled "Be Empowered-Get Rid of Excessive Fat". The forum will orient guests on proper weight assessment and management, guidelines to a healthy diet and the right attitude in facing morbid obesity. The hospital, in cooperation with Johnson & Johnson Medical Philippines, aims to give new hope to the morbidly obese. The patient forum will be on July 2, 9 a.m. at the 7th floor auditorium of the Metropolitan Medical Center, Masangkay Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Free BMI analysis and blood glucose monitoring. Call 254-7457 or 254-1111 locals 2018/7038.

'San Mig Nights @ Bayview Park Hotel'

CONVENIENTLY located at the heart of famous Roxas Boulevard fronting the US Embassy, Bayview Park Hotel Manila, your 'home by the bay', launches its much-awaited entertainment dubbed 'San Mig Nights' starting July 1 and every Friday onwards at the Sunset Bar from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Marie Jean P. Cordero, Bayview's director of sales and marketing, says this promo includes, if guests order 3 San Mig Beers, the 4th will be free; a group of 5 gets free 'pulutan'; Penthouse dart games. Unwind with your family and friends as you enjoy the exciting nightlife with the best live entertainers, at no cover charge. For reservations and other inquiries, call 526-1555 locals 1727 and 8327. Bayview Park Hotel is at 1118 Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

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LOT

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Price: P2,227,500.00

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Description: Residential Lot; Area: 194 & 252 sqms.
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Location: Along Colon & Borromeo Sts., Interior of Brgy. Pahina, Central Cebu City
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Price: 6,570,000.00

Location: 3rd St. Juntado Subd. Brgy. Calumpang, Iloilo City
Description: vacant lot Area: 525 sqms.
Price: P1,377,000.00

For inquiries, please call:
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MERCEDES VILL., P2.2M, 2Storey, Bnew P35K/mo, 3BR, 2T&B, 1 car grge, duplex Call 643-6927 / 916-4414 / 0917-3312287

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Resd'l Resort Batangas la 884m² fa234m² FF P15M 0927-2698179

CAVITE

DASMA 681K 0918-7141462

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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Townhse/3sty/3br/3tb/ P3.860M Tel 8903461 loc 34

PASAY

BAYGARDENS 2BR 104.50m² 7.5up W/ Parking Roselyn 09203843962

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MAKATI

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PASIG

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

MALATE LOTS 947M² W/2 OLD HSES 09217603930

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2K CRV M. SILVER
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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

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1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

DESK EDITORS

Qualifications:
- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/ layouting pages

Responsibilities:
- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

AUDITOR

Qualifications:
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least 3 years auditing experience
- At least 1 year supervisory / management experience
- Knowledge of Gen. Accounting & Auditing Principles & Procedures
- Knowledge of Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing
- Knowledge of Financial Data Analysis, Taxation & Labor Laws
- Analytical Skills, Team Player
- Can promote & implement appropriate process improvements, leadership skills

Responsibilities:
- Performs audit procedure, organizes working papers and communicate reports based on results of audit examinations
- Responsible for assisting in identifying risk, evaluating controls and preparing audit plans/programs

RESEARCH SECTION HEAD

Qualifications:
- College graduate
- 2 years experience in related or similar job
- 2 years management experience
- Computer skills (Windows, Word, Netscape, Explorer, Excel, Corel Draw, Powerpoint)
- Interpersonal Management / Team Building skills, analytical skills, follow through skills
- Familiar with publishing industry

Responsibilities:
- Supervises the day to day operations of the Research Section by overseeing the gathering of statistics, reports, backgrounds and other reference materials requested by the Editorial and the writing of special reports and packaged information for publication

CREDIT CLERK

Qualifications:
- College graduate with background in Finance or Accounting
- Preferably with office experience

Responsibilities:
- Assists the Credit Assistants in facilitating credit approval of all advertisements that includes ads through agencies, direct clients and others

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE – ADVERTISING

Qualifications:
- College graduate preferably Marketing or any Business course
- Knowledge in basic computer operations
- Interpersonal skills, Report Writing skills, Presentation skills, Filing skills, Communication skills

Responsibility:
- Responsible for establishing and maintaining relationships with clients and ad agencies with the end view of soliciting ad placement to meet overall sales quota.

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Responsibilities:
- College graduate preferably Fine Arts
- With background in Computer, Photoshop, Pagemaker, CorelDraw
- Knowledgeable in manual and computer based illustration, page design and artwork skills
- 1 year experience as Graphic Artist

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- At least 2 years experience in recruitment and selection
- Familiar with psychological tests
- Knows how to use office software
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Analytical Skills, Report Writing Skills

Responsibilities:
- To provide recruitment, selection and employment services and maintain an HR Information System

ACCOUNTING STAFF

Qualifications:
- College graduate major in Accounting
- 1 year experience in this job or other similar jobs
- Knowledge of basic accounting principles
- Knowledge basic computer operation
- Accounting skills, Report Writing skills, Ability to prepare check, Interpersonal skills, Filing skills

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

WANTED

(1) LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT OFFICER II
Item No. : ILSB-LEO2-1-1998
Salary Grade : 13
Basic Salary : P11,837.00 plus P1,000.00 monthly allowance
Minimum Qualification/Requirements:
- Civil Service Eligible (Professional)
- Bachelor's Degree preferably in Economics, Sociology, Business/ Public Administration, Journalism, Mass/Development Communication, Statistics, and other related courses
- One (1) year experience in social development research
- Four (4) hours of relevant training

(1) LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANT
Item No. : ILSB-LEA-7-2004
Salary Grade : 08
Basic Salary : P8,709.00 plus P1,000.00 monthly allowance
Minimum Qualification/Requirements:
- Civil Service Eligible (professional)
- Bachelor Degree preferably in Economics, Sociology, Business/ Public Administration, Journalism, Mass/Development Communication, Statistics and other related course
- One (1) year relevant experience
- Four (4) hours of relevant training

Qualified parties may personally apply or send their comprehensive resumé to:

The Executive Director
INSTITUTE FOR LABOR STUDIES
5th Floor, Department of Labor and Employment Building
General Luna Street, Intramuros, Manila
Fax Nos. 527-34-91

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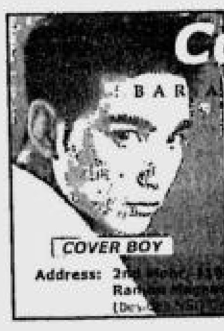
PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Migrating to Canada or Australia, please visit www.b4landing.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby gieven that the estate of the late ABDON A. ILAGAN has been extra-judicially settled WITH WAIVER OF SHARE among his heirs per Doc. No. 241, Page No. 50, Book No. VII, Series of 2005, before Atty. Domingo G. Losa, Notary Public, Paranaque City.
(PDI-June 24, July 1 & 8, 2005)



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722-1144
722-1155

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that Cad. Lot No.1519 with area of 1,011sq.m. and Covered by Declaration of Real Property no.01640,Cad Lot No. 1447 with an area of 317sq.m. and covered by Declaration Of Real Property No. 01641,Cad Lot No. 01167-B with an area of 17,527 sq.m. and covered by Declaration of Real Property 01350 and a one Third (1/3)portion of Cad Lot No.1144,1431 and 1432,Cad 285 Carmona cadastre with an area of 15,263 sq.m. and covered by Declaration of Real Property No. 01631 all of Carmona,Cavite was EXTRAJUDICIAL settled among Heirs of late ELENA MAULANIN MANGUIT per Doc. No. 34,Book No. 111 Series of 2005 of Notary Public Virgilio B. Galeon of Binan,Laguna
(PDI- July 1,8,15 2005)

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late THELMA N. PAGTAKHAN was extrajudicially settled on June 21, 2005 per Doc. No. 878, Page No 64, Book No. 10, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Atty. Rafael N. Aguilos of Mandaluyong City.
(PDI - June 24, July 1 & 8, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Alabang Country Club Cert.#
A -1917 issued to
Bernardo B. Trinidad was lost.
If no contest received new
Certificate will be issued.
(PDI- July 1, 6, 13, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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ACCOUNTING HEAD

- Female, not more than 30 years old, BSBA graduate major in Accounting preferably CPA. Must have an experience in supervising collection of accounts receivable, scheduling of accounts payable, inventory control and operations, preparation of monthly income sales report (per branch) with supporting schedules and preparation of books of accounts (per branch/consolidated). Preparation of Financial Statement and Annual Income Tax Return, evaluation of existing accounting system and supervision of all accounting functions / staff. Computer literate is a must.

ACCOUNTING CLERK

Female, not more than 25 years old, Accounting graduate, with or without experience, with computer knowledge, fresh graduates w/ good scholastic records are welcome to apply.

STORE SALES ASSISTANT

Female, not more than 25 years old, graduate of a 4-year business course. Pleasing personality, hardworking and computer literate. Must possess customer sales and service skills, can work with minimum supervision and willing to work on weekends and holidays. Knowledgeable on stores paper works, documentations and bookkeeping. Newly graduates with good scholastic records can apply. Preferably residents of Alabang, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas or nearby areas.

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN

Male, not more than 30 years old, and must have degree in Computer Engineering (COE), Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE) or computer related courses. Must have a relevant experience with extensive hands-on knowledge on computer hardware, software troubleshooting, repair and maintenance (MONITORS, printers, scanners, modem, etc.)

HR SUPERVISOR

Female, not more than 30 years old, BS Psychology/Behavioral Science graduate. Well versed in psychological test admission and evaluation, hands on experience in HR functions such as but not limited to recruitment, personnel action, timekeeping, benefits and compensation. Ability to relate well with rank and files to provide necessary assistance. Strong sense of responsibility and dedication to work. Computer literate.

Apply in person with your Resumé, Certificate of Employment, Transcript of Records and 2x2 colored picture at:

**MICROGOLD INFORMATION SOLUTION
& PRODUCTS, INC.
No. 34 San Antonio St.,
corner San Jose St., SFDM, QC
Telefax # 3737700**

Garment Manufacturer is now **URGENTLY** looking for:

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

- Female, 35-45
- College graduate, major in Accountancy
- 5-10 years experience in handling full set of accounting & payrolls
- Fluent in English, and Computer literate

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- Female, 20-30
- At least 2 years experience in handling full set of bookkeeping
- Fluent in English and Computer literate

Applications could be address to the attention of Accounting Officer, e-mail address:
terry_tung@fashionexpress.com.hk

PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER

Department of Agriculture

*Headquarters and Gene Pool
Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija,
Philippines 3120
FAX: 63 (044) 456-0730
Tel.: 63 (044) 456-0731 to 34
E-mail: pcc-ceil@mozcom.com
URL: www.pcc.da.gov.ph
Manila Liaison Office
3F, DCIBC Bldg., NIA Cmpd., EDSA,
Quezon City, Philippines 0830
Tel./FAX: 63 (2) 921-3863
63 (2) 926-7707
E-mail: pcc-mlo@mozcom.com*

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO REBID

The Philippine Carabao Center, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects:

Package #	Particulars	Approved Budget
I.	Semen Processing and Artificial Insemination Supplies	P115,758.75
II.	Veterinary Drugs and Supplies	645,504.50
III.	Laboratory/Chemical Supplies	905,001.80
IV.	Tires	420,400.00
	Total	**P2,086,665.05**

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 4-8, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference (PCC Headquarters and Gene Pool)	July 18, 2005 (2:00 p.m.)
3. Opening of Bids (PCC Headquarters and Gene Pool)	July 26, 2005 (2:00 p.m.)
4. Bid Evaluation	July 26, 2005
5. Post-qualification	July 27 - August 2, 2005
6. Notice of Award	30 days after Bid Evaluation

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of one hundred fifty pesos (P150) to the Philippine Carabao Center Cashier.

The Philippine Carabao Center assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **EULOGIO M. MONTEALTO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - July 1 & 2, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA
Bayombong
-o0o-

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL TREASURER

NOTICE OF SALE OF DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY

By virtue of the provisions of sections 260 and 263 of RA 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, the undersigned will sell at public auction on July 26, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at main lobby Provincial Capitol Building, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, the real property herein below specified which are hereby certified to be delinquent in the payment of real estate tax to satisfy all delinquent real property taxes, penalties, costs due thereon as of the date.

Name of Owner: California Energy Casecnan Water and Energy Co. Inc.
Location: Brgys. Abuyo and Pelaway, Alfonso Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya

Property Desc.	Location	Tax Dec. No. 2000-06	Unpaid Tax (Basic & SEF)	Penalties (Discount)	2% Adm Cost	Total
Dam	Abuyo	-002-0280	63,274,927.80	20,247,976.90	1,670,458.09	85,193,362.79
Dam	Pelaway	-006-0033	103,290,169.20	33,052,854.14	2,726,860.14	139,069,883.81
Machinery	Pelaway	-006-0034	19,291,402.20	6,173,248.70	509,293.02	25,973,943.92
Building	Pelaway	-006-0035	217,008.00	69,442.56	5,729.01	292,179.57
Building	Pelaway	-006-0036	99,930.60	31,977.79	2,638.17	134,546.56
Building	Pelaway	-006-0037	10,519.80	3,366.34	277.72	14,163.86
Building	Pelaway	-006-0038	5,533.20	1,770.62	146.08	7,449.90
Building	Pelaway	-006-0039	931.80	298.18	24.60	1,254.58
Building	Pelaway	-006-0040	10,711.20	3,427.58	282.78	14,421.56
Building	Pelaway	-006-0041	5,508.60	1,762.75	145.43	7,416.78
Building	Pelaway	-006-0042	5,533.20	1,770.62	146.08	7,449.90
Building	Pelaway	-006-0043	6,433.80	2,058.82	169.85	8,662.47
Building	Pelaway	-006-0044	1,474.80	471.94	38.93	1,985.67
Building	Pelaway	-006-0045	5,634.00	1,802.88	148.74	7,585.62
Total Amount			186,225,718.20	59,592,229.82	4,916,358.96	250,734,306.98

We hereby certify that pursuant to Section 258 of RA 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, the foregoing statement of delinquencies is a correct transcript of the records of this office as of July 26, 2005.

Note: Prospective bidders on the Public Auction Sale should bid on all of the properties and are required to post Performance Bond of Php 10,000.00.

Corazon M. Sumawang
CORAZON M. SUMAWANG
Municipal Treasurer, A. Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya

PERFECTO B. MARTINEZ, JR.
Provincial Treasurer

(PDI - July 1 & 8, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

P2,000 lang, Sariling Biznis na!0917-4031797

QC Carshop 500m² 8974697 35T

RTW Consign 09178830002

BUSINESS FOR SALE

MKTI FASTFUD 09175351015

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

HIGHLY PAID
•CALL CENTER AGENTS
(Sales & Travel Agents)
20-45yo fluent in English
•FOOD TECH graduate w/ related or sales exp 22-27yo
•ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONIC SALES ENGINEERS
Bring resume @ Unit E 1675 Rizaljna2 Bldg Quezon Ave QC
email:manos@mozcom.com
4112630•9298328•9269857

BSP•BSN•PT•MT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mo! 8927828

CAREGIVER 5280730

DEP ED MARIKINA CITY
OSEC -DECSB MTCHR1-30036
2001 TCH3 - 30116 - 2000

VACANT ITEM
DIVISION OF MAKATI SAN ANTONIO VILL ELEM SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MAKATI VI TEACHER 1 ITEM NOO-SEC:DECS B41195S616

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-LOGMMSD 200506-022

The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC) invites interested chemical companies and qualified bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of Chemicals, Materials, Tools and Equipment including Supervision and Services in the Chemical Water Treatment of Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant Complex (TGPP) covering the following:

Project No.	Coverage	Program	Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
LOGMMSD 200506-022	Plant A – Unit 2	REGULAR	P5,200,000.00 for one (1) year

Regular Program is extended to all Chemical Companies/Suppliers/Contractors that are:

a. Actively registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and/or Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
b. Duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), in case of Cooperatives;
c. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships;
d. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the Interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
e. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
f. Entities forming themselves into a joint venture that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for this particular contract provided, however that Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%).

In addition, application for Regular Program is open to Chemical Companies/Suppliers/Contractors whose water treatment programs for at least three (3) consecutive evaluation period are certified as Satisfactory by the Sr. Plant Manager of TGPP and Chemical Companies/Suppliers/Contractors who are exclusive distributors of brand of chemical products used in programs are already tested and certified successful by the TGPP Manager.

The value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract, adjusted to current prices, completed within three (3) to five (5) years immediately preceding the eligibility screening, and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least 50% of the approved budget for the contract to be bid. Bidding will be conducted using the non discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the IRR of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Act".

Issuance of Eligibility and Bid Documents shall be from June 24, 2005, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Materials Management Services Division, MMD Ground Floor Bldg., National Power Corporation, Diliman, Quezon City upon submission of:

1. An application addressed to THE CHAIRMAN, Bids and Awards Committee;
2. Certified True copy of Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate; and
3. Payment of non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00).

All additional information shall be furnished upon request at the address given above or at Tel. No. (02) 924-5477.

Pre bid Conference will be on July 8, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at Kañao Function Room, NPC Bldg. 1, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission and opening of eligibility and bid proposals shall be on July 21, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at Moriones Function Room, NPC Bldg. 1, Diliman, Quezon City.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of Republic Act No. 9184.

NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any bids to annul the bidding process and to reject all bids without hereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **LORENZO S. MARCELO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD/MMD

(PDI - June 24 & July 1, 2005)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Department of National Defense *(Armed Forces of the Philippines)* through the *General Appropriations Act* and *AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund* intends to apply the sum of *FOUR HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN MILLION THREE HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND PESOS* (PhP 447,360,000.00) being the *Approved Budget for the Contract* (ABC) to payment under the contract for the Supply and Installation of the *AFP Fixed Communication System (FCS) Project* (AFPMP-GHQ-09-001-04). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The DND/AFP now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply and Installation *(Engineering, Furnishing, Installing and Testing* [EFIT] and *Commissioning)* of the *Visayas-Bicol Communications System* (VBCS) and *Mindanao Microwave Communications System* (MMCS). Delivery of the GOODS is required within Two Hundred Forty (240) days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The following parties may participate: Sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, cooperatives, or combinations of any or all the above entities forming themselves into a joint venture to meet the eligibility requirements of the project and to undertake the project provided that they themselves are manufacturers and/or system integrators.
3. Bidding will be conducted through a *Two-Stage* open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the *Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184* (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the *"Government Procurement Reform Act,"* and is restricted to: Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, *and/or* to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Part II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the *Lowest Calculated Bid* (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the *Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder* (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *DND BAC Secretariat, AFP Modernization Project Management Office* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below, upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Forty Thousand Pesos* (Php 40,000.00). The method of payment will be in the form of cash or cashiers check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The DND-BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 07, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. (local time) at Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before August 25, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on August 25, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at *Silid Panday Pira, 1st Flr, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence *of* the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. Registered bidders shall be required to visit and/or conduct survey on the proposed project sites starting on 15 July 2005.
10. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or system integrators who wish to participate in the public bidding are required to apply for registration with the DND BAC, through the DND BAC Secretariat at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement projects they wish to participate in, pursuant to DND BAC Cir 01-2005 dtd 12 May 2005.
11. The DND BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

The DND BAC Secretariat
DND Bids and Awards Committee
AFP Modernization Program Management Office
3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini,
Cp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City Philippines
Tel Nr: 421-2327 / 9116001 local 6592
www.info.com.ph/~afpmod
pid@info.com.ph

(Sgd.) **USEC JOSE F. SANTOS**
Chairman, DND-BAC

(PDI - June 24 & July 1, 2005)

Attention!! Attention!!

OLONGAPO, BATAAN & ZAMBALES RESIDENTS

*Everybody is welcome!
Employed or Unemployed*

AS LONG AS YOU WANT TO
EARN EXTRA INCOME

Attend our FREE Business Orientation
on JULY 1, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

See you at Yum Yum Health Fastfood
975 Rizal Avenue, West Tapinac,
Olongapo City
(beside STI, front of SSS & Smart)

For a reserved seat, text in your name
or call Rachel 0921-9149341

Centennial Bank relaunches car, auto loans

CENTENNIAL Savings Bank recently relaunched its Auto Advantage and Housing Advantage Loan products on top of its other loan services such as the All-Purpose Advantage Loan, business loans and loans against deposit hold-out.

Buying cars come in as easy and quick with the bank's Auto Advantage Loan. The car loan covers acquisition of either brand new or second hand Asian Utility Vehicles (AUV) or Light Commercial Vehicles (LCV). For a minimum down payment of only 20 percent, the loan shall be paid for a maximum term of 60 months with interest. Rebates will be given if the loan is paid on or before the due date.

Dreaming of owning a house and lot is now a reality with the bank's Housing Advantage Loan. This covers acquisition of lot, house and lot, condominium, townhouse or rowhouse; home improvement; construction of a residential unit on a lot owned by the loan borrower; and refinancing or take-out of existing housing loans. The terms of payment, minimum and maximum loanable amount will vary depending on the purpose of the loan subject to 12-percent interest rate per annum.

Other bank products and services are regular savings account which includes Kid Matipid Savings with 4 percent interest per annum; Cybercash current account with 2.5 percent interest per annum. This comes with a combo account facility, time deposits and ATM savings which can also go with any regular savings and current account. Bayad Center and fund transfer facilities are also available. Soon to be launched are the CSB Educational Advantage and Jewelry Advantage loans.

Centennial Bank will also be installing new ATM machines for its customers. The bank opened its services to the public on Feb. 18, 1998. It is owned by two solid financial institutions, namely, AFP Savings and Loan Association Inc. and AFP Mutual Benefit Association Inc. It has five branches: Main Branch at its Head Office at Prestige Tower, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City; Murphy Branch at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City; Villamor Branch at Villamor Airbase, Pasay City; Sta. Rosa Branch at Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and; Baguio Branch along Upper Session Road, Baguio City. Its ATM services are linked with Bancnet and Megalink.

NFA R-8 assures enough rice for the lean months

NATIONAL Food Authority regional director for region 8 Benjamin B. Marta revealed that the agency has set in place measures to ensure that good quality government rice is available and accessible in markets throughout the region especially during the lean months of July to September. Marta also reported that the agency is in the process of revalidating the passbooks of NFA accredited retailers. He explained that the agency continues to sell good quality rice at P16 and P18 per kg for regular-milled rice (RMR) and well-milled rice (WMR), respectively, even with the rising cost of crude oil and other petroleum products. He assured that the government has sufficient rice inventory strategically positioned across the region and that NFA rice stocks will be adequate to stabilize rice prices and supply. Meanwhile, he encouraged the public to text NFA at 0917-6210927 for any inquiries, complaints or suggestions on NFA rice supply and prices.

THE
HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

OBITUARIES

La Funeraria Paz - Sucat
Manila Memorial Park
NOW OFFERS
24 - HOUR
CREMATION SERVICES
820-1592 / 825-9947

[redacted]

JWT

1922 - 2005

With deepest sorrow,
We announce the passing of our
former Chairman & CEO,

LYLE K. LITTLE

last June 23, 2005

Lyle is survived by his wife Dee, and his children Cathy, Debbie & David Anthony.

We, the employees of JWT Philippines, ask you to join us in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

We enjoin all ex JWT, relatives, friends, and business associates to attend the Holy Mass at Don Bosco Parish, Pasay Road, Makati City on Thursday, July 7, 9:00 a.m.

In loving memory

of a great woman of faith, love, and strength

First Death Anniversary

Natividad Tamayo Dungo

May 21, 1930 – July 1, 2004

Eucharistic celebrations
will be offered at the following venues:

St. John Vianney Catholic Church, Walnut Creek, California, USA
St. Patrick's Catholic Church, San Francisco, California, USA
St. Philomena Church, South Main Street, Carson, California, USA
St. John the Evangelist Church, San Francisco, California, USA
St. Hubert Church, Hoffman Estate, Illinois, USA
National Shrine of St. Jude, Chicago, Illinois, USA
San Lorenzo Ruiz Minor Basilica, Binondo, Manila
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City
San Antonio de Padua, San Antonio Valley 1, Parañaque City
San Jose de Trozo Parish, G. Masangkay, Sta. Cruz, Manila
St. James the Great Parish, Cuenca Street, Ayala-Alabang Village, Muntinlupa
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, Sun Valley, Parañaque City
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, Manila
San Isidro Labrador Parish, Veraville, Talon, Las Piñas City
Christ the King Church, San Isidro Subd., Las Piñas City
St. Joseph Church, Olongapo City
PLDT Muntinlupa Business Zone, Soldiers' Hills, Muntinlupa City
PLDT Mass Community Relations, MGO Building, Makati City
Petron Corporation, G. Puyat Extension, Makati City
12 Davao Street, Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City

Our deepest gratitude to those who have offered prayers for the eternal repose of the soul of our dearest Mommy NATY.

Benny, children, and grandchildren

A great husband, father and grandfather,
A man that was loved by all
Our dearly beloved

JOHN JAMES RODRIGUEZ

of 201 Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City
born on November 23, 1932 in Brooklyn, New York
has peacefully joined our Lord on June 28, 2005.

His bereaved wife **ADELIA G. RODRIGUEZ**; daughter **JOYCE R. ESTANISLAO** and son-in-law **OSCAR ESTANISLAO**; grand children **MICHAEL JOHN ESTANISLAO**, **MICHELLE AURORA ESTANISLAO** & **MARICAR JOYCE ESTANISLAO**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 3, 2005 at the Heritage Park, Taguig City after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Arlington. There will also be a 7:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday.

Our Dearly Beloved Mama

ERIBERTA BERNABE FERRER

- a devoted wife to Former Local Government Secretary and Comelec Chairman Jaime N.Ferrer (†)
- a dedicated mother to four children
- a remarkable philantrophist and educator
- an active community and religious leader

Peacefully joined our Lord and her husband
Jaime on June 29, 2005 at the age of 88.

Her children **Graziella**, **Jaime Jr.**, **Jaime III** and **Jaime IV** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Jose Rizal Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 3, 2005 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

Our Beloved

RUFINA "Pining" RIVERA ISIDRO

Peacefully joined our Creator
on June 28, 2005 at the age of 84.

We, her loving brothers and sisters, Francisco and Carmen Isidro, Bonifacio and Carmen Isidro, Dra. Victoria Isidro Honorio, Dra. Magdalena Isidro Gonzales; nephews, nieces and grandchildren request for your prayers for her eternal repose.

Her remains lie in state at the Gonzales Residence, Cruz na Daan, San Rafael, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Sunday, 3rd day of July 2005 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Diocesan Shrine of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Cruz na Daan, San Rafael, Bulacan.

> **"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."**
> — 2 Corinthians 5:8

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate

❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

> **"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."** — John 3:16

BELEN ILAGAN VDA. DE COSTELO

Peacefully joined her Creator
on June 26, 2005 at the age of 95.

Her loving children **Nene** and **Liloy, Matty** and **Mercy, Ammie** and **Cora, Baby** and **Jun, Charito** and **Efren**, and **Luth**, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and relatives request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 3, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

In Memory

First Death Anniversary

MANUEL TOLEDO SERRANO, JR.

Masses will be offered on July 3, 2005

Lakeside Lawns, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat .... 3:30 PM
Parish of the Resurrection, BF Homes I, Parañaque .... 8:00 AM
Sta. Rosa de Lima Parish, Bagong Ilog, Pasig .... 8:00 AM
Sacred Heart of Jesus Chaplaincy, Hillsborough, Muntinlupa .... 6:30 PM
St. Jerome & St. Susana Parish, Alabang, Muntinlupa .... 6:00 PM
Malate Church .... 6:00 PM (July 2)

"In peace I shall both lie down
and sleep for You alone Lord
make me secure."
(Psalm 4:9)

Our dearest Nanay, as you journey onward to the Father, may you remember always
that our love and deep appreciation for you and all the blessings you have brought
into our lives and the lives of many others will forever be etched in our hearts.

BONIFACIA STO. DOMINGO Y EUSTAQUIO

June 5, 1913 - June 30, 2005
of San Juan, Metro Manila

peacefully joined her Creator on June 30, 2005 at the age of 92.

Loving Husband
(†) **Dr. BRAULIO "BOYONG" STO. DOMINGO, SR.**

Loving Children

Zenaida & Potenciano V. Larrazabal, Jr.
Mia & Niel Carcel
  Tonyo & Kali
Betty and Michael Veloso
  Carlo, Keli & Sabin
Yong & Donna Yrastorza
  Belle & Cian
Philip & Marivic Labado
  Basti & Mikel

Carmelita & Carl John Matriano
Gabriel
John John & Mica Cabigao
  Camille & Cajo
Richard & Ada Hernando
  Andrew & Axel

Jose & Illuminada de Guzman
Joel & Lizette
  Joey
James

Adolfo & Lovelina Morelos
Maridelle & Dave Araneta
  Louie
Malen & Paul Jalandoni
  Jay, Bea & Ysa
Gigi & Paul Real
  Paolo, Claris & Roni
Adolfo Jr.& Jill Mercado
  Iggy and Yssa

Linda & Oscar Tuason
Marion, Joshua & Gerard

Fe & Carlos Aquino
George & Vida Romualdez
  Breeya
Alex & Lea Disini
Bennett
Nina

Agnes & Ricky Gruet

Braulio Jr. (Hoppy) & Carmen Larrazabal
Ritzi & Rainier Salazar
Leo
Rica

Surviving Brothers & Spouses:
Jose & Mabini Eustaquio
Ruperto & Pilar Eustaquio

Surviving Sister-in-law:
Prospera Javier vda. de Eustaquio

The body lies in state at the Adoration Chapel of Pinaglabanan Church, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will be announced later.

Edgardo Pilares Ramirez

February 21, 1932 – June 29, 2005

Peacefully joined his Creator
at the age of 73.

His bereaved family, **Violeta & Virgilio Abad** (†), **Azucena & Ceferino Palaganas**; niece and nephews, **Maricel & Percival Punzal, JR Abad, Carlos & Lisa Abad, Jose & Koleen Palaganas, Paulo Palaganas**, and **Alyssa Palaganas**; grandchildren, **Serafina, Lourdes** and **Amanda Punzal** and **Diego Abad**; and other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in Heaven.

His remains lie in state at the St. Francis of Assisi Church, Poblacion, Meycauayan, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 2, 2005 after the 3 p.m. Mass at the Zamora Memorial Garden, Meycauayan, Bulacan.

CANDIDO "BIDUNG" FERRER CRUZ

of Las Piñas City and Bacolor, Pampanga

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on June 29, 2005 at the age of 81.

His bereaved wife, **REMEDIOS JALIJALI CRUZ**; children and in-laws **RESTITUTO & HARUMI ROSE, TERESITA & GEORGE, CARMENCITA, SYLVIA & GERARDO** and grandchildren **ROBERT CHRISTIE, RAYMOND, CATHERINE, CHRISTINE, GIAN CARLO, KYAN, KISE, KIMBO**, great grandchildren **RIGGS, JACQUES, KALE** and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Royal Chapel of the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City. Mass and eulogy will be held on Friday, July 1, 2005 at 8:00 PM.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 2, 2005, 10:00 AM
at the Manila Memorial Park at Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..." Psalm 23:4

CLASSIFIEDS

Packed veggies through NFA rolling stores

AGRICULTURE Secretary Arthur C. Yap with packs of vegetables which are being sold through the National Food Authority's rolling stores during the launching of the Department of Agriculture's 'May Gulay' project at the Camarin Elementary School in Caloocan City. Joining Secretary Yap are President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Caloocan City mayor Recom Echiverri, and officials of the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Caloocan city government. Pre-packed vegetables for chop suey, sinigang and pinakbet in ½ kilogram are now available for sale through the NFA's rolling stores at an introductory price of P15 per pack.

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Description of the Project: *114 Units Desktop Computers in Two Computer Laboratories Connected via Wireless to Two Access Points*

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c. Provision of technical support and training to the operation of the system

Bid documents may be secured upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 from the BAC Secretariat, CSU, Tuguegarao City from June 27 to July 8, 2005, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays only. The deadline for the submission of Bids is on 08 August 2005, 10:00 a.m., at the Supply Office. Bid opening shall be at 2:00 p.m. of the same date. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on 27 July 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the BAC Secretariat.

The Bids and Award Committee of the Cagayan State University reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered complying and most advantageous to the government.

The IRR-A of RA 9184 shall govern the bidding process

THE BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI - June 25 & July 1, 2005)

BUSINESS

ADB calls for sweeping, sustained reforms in RP

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ASIAN Development Bank's new chief called for a "sweeping" and "sustained" overhaul of the way the Philippine government operates for the country's efforts to contain the budget deficit to succeed.

In a recent speech before local business leaders, ADB president Haruhiko Kuroda also said fiscal consolidation and improving investment climate—the country's two biggest tasks—would be impossible without addressing the country's governance weaknesses.

"Prosperity for the Philippines requires deep change. It requires approaches and initiatives that are substantially different from what has been done for the last 20 years."

"This situation will not be resolved by the passage of one law, or one good year's GDP (gross domestic product) or budget results. A sustained and focused effort to build, year upon year, a healthier economy, is the only path that offers hope to the country," he said.

For instance, Kuroda urged the local authorities to address intergovernmental fiscal relations, local government unit budgeting and civil service reform.

He also urged the government to further step up its anti-corruption drive and improve monitoring and management of full public sector debt obligations, including contingent liabilities.

Kuroda said three sets of new tax measures had begun to lay a strong foundation for growth—the improved tax legislation following the passage of the value-added tax and excise tax laws; improved tax administration by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and controlled expenses.

"However, it is much too early to celebrate. For fiscal consolidation to be successful, it needs to be recognized for what it is; a sweeping and sustained reform of the way government operates in the Philippines. Anything less will be certain to fall short of what is needed," he said.

Next to fiscal consolidation, Kuroda said the government's top priority should be improving the investment climate to allow Philippine firms to compete successfully in the global marketplace for products and for finance.

He said the country must shift to competitive higher value added goods and services and sustain a macroeconomic environment that supports investment and growth.

"These challenges do not lend themselves to quick fixes; they require a strong and sustained reform process," he said.

"There are widespread perceptions of weak regulators and regulatory frameworks, and a still largely inefficient judiciary. There are also the issues of high utility rates, low public service efficiency, and inadequate infrastructure," he said.

The Philippines' gross domestic investments declined from about 24 percent of gross national product in 1997 to just over 17 percent in 2003, and foreign direct investments dropped from a high of $1.8 billion in 1999 to just $200 million in 2003.

VON AMSBERG

WB says RP still has investors' nod

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD Bank said the Philippines would still have the confidence of foreign creditors despite the turmoil in the political front as long as the country achieves its fiscal targets.

World Bank country director Joachim von Amsberg said the multilateral funding agency believes the Philippines has the capability of staying on track with its targets despite the "political noise," and that the bank was willing to lend assistance to see reforms through.

"The World Bank earlier said that if the Philippines delivers on its fiscal targets, it would increase its financial support to the country. Many partners made similar statements," he said in an interview with reporters after the signing of $36 million in loans and grants for the Philippines held at the Department of Finance yesterday.

The government targets to raise the maximum revenues from the fiscal reform measures it has accomplished so far.

These include the the enactment of the Value-Added Tax law, the sin tax and the lateral attrition laws; and aggressive moves to run after tax evaders, smugglers and corrupt government workers.

These programs are aimed at wiping out the national government's budget deficit by 2010.

But the DOF had said the target of a balanced budget could be achieved as early as 2008.

DOF estimates showed that the newly enacted VAT law, which will be implemented starting today, would generate P28 billion in additional revenues in the second half of the year, and as much as P105 billion annually starting next year.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima has projected that the national government's budget deficit for the year would only hit P160 billion, compared with the official target of P180 billion, because of the implementation of the VAT law and other fiscal reform measures.

"We are happy to hear ambitious targets, and we are willing to support the government in attaining these targets," Von Amsberg said.

The World Bank earlier said it was willing to increase its financial support to the Philippines to as much as $2 billion for the next three years.

The $2 billion would help finance the country's development programs until 2008, the bank said.

The World Bank usually provides just $100 million a year in assistance.

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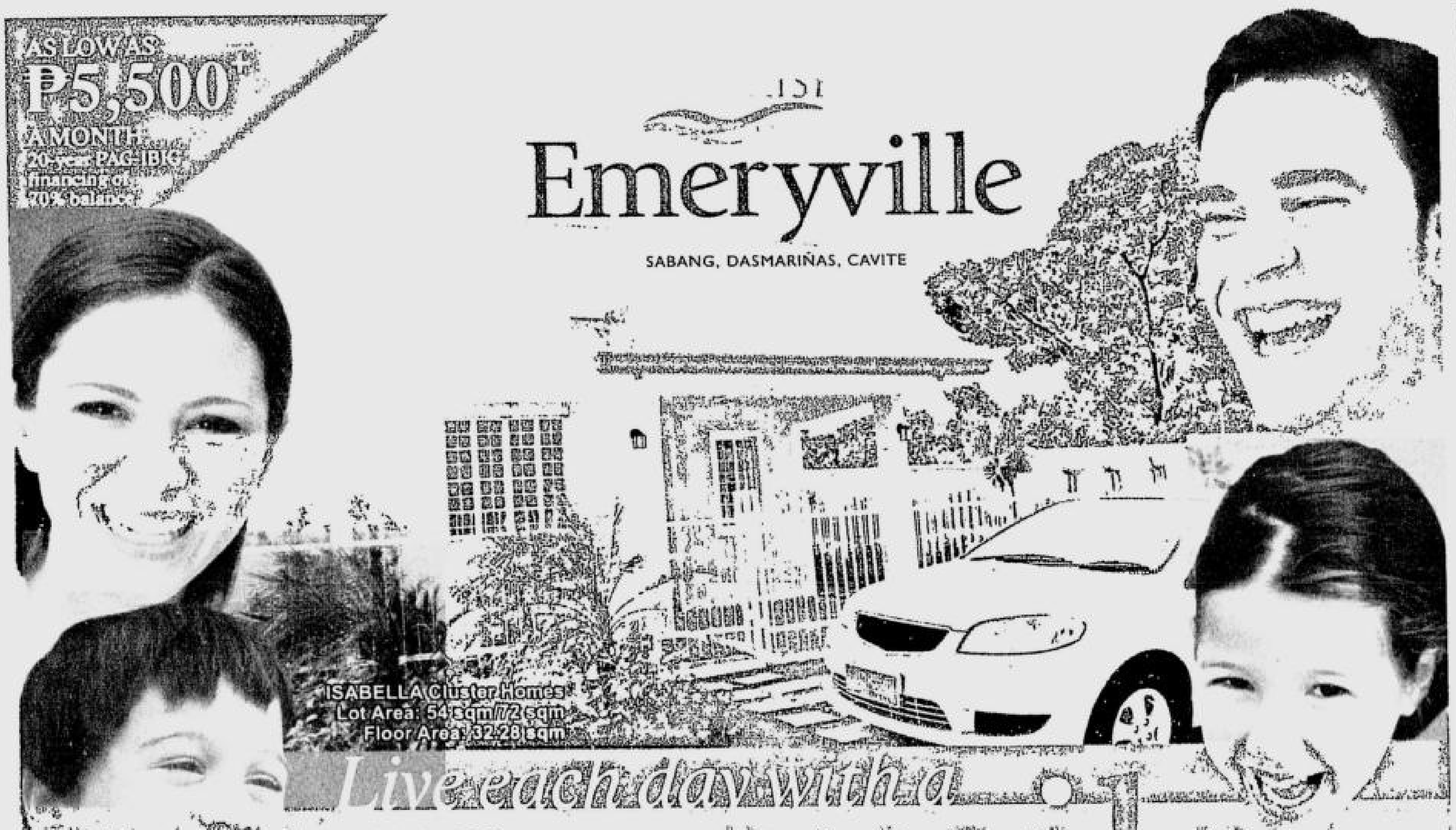

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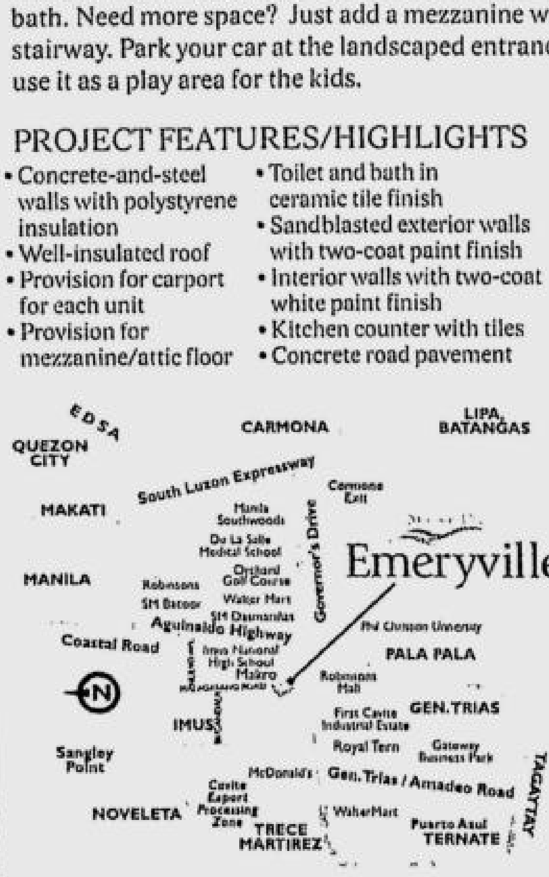

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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Ventures to get into for ₱500,000 or less

By Amy R. Remo

IF YOU'RE a budding entrepreneur, the best route for you to take may be the franchise option.

Statistics from the Association of Filipino Franchises Inc. show that a little over six out of 10 independent start-up businesses fail within the first year, while nine out of 10 franchisees succeed.

The reason? Franchises do not merely offer entrepreneurs the right to an established trademark and product but they also give one a partner with business knowledge, skills and financial strength.

A franchise also allows one to buy into the success of a known brand, thus, posing fewer risks—on the part of the franchisee—compared to investing in independent start-ups.

To address Filipinos' mounting interest for franchising, AFFI has gathered around 80 franchisors to its fifth annual franchise showcase dubbed "Franchise Fiesta 2005."

The three-day event at the Megatrade hall in SM Megamall runs until Sunday.

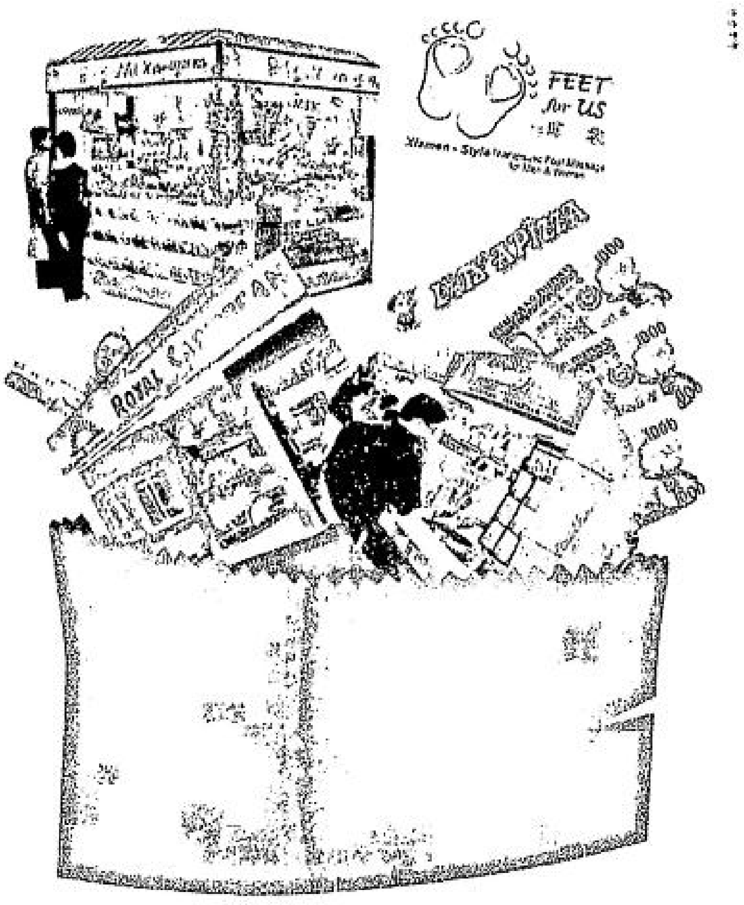
Formed in 1997, AFFI is a non-stock, non-profit organization of Filipino entrepreneurs and businessmen, who recognize the potential for business expansion through franchising. It currently has 44 member-companies.

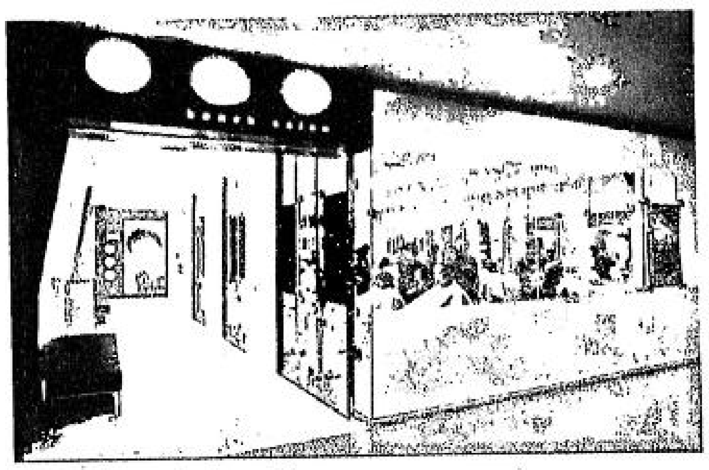
The fair allows interested investors or entrepreneurs to look at the growing number of seasoned Pinoy-run businesses available for franchising. It has also become a venue for conducting educational fora and seminars.

This year's fair showcases more than 70 business ideas from different sectors. AFFI has also put together various franchise packages to suit one's budget, ranging from P200,000 to P5 million or even more.

Here are some of the franchises you can get for P500,000 or less:

VENTURES/ B2-2




OF the 30 Bench salons, 24 are company-owned.

Learning from three success stories

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHAT is a good business to get into these days?

This is an oft-repeated question among the Philippines' growing army of young entrepreneurs willing to risk time, effort and capital to be their own bosses.

And usually, the answer lies in getting a franchise of a company with an established system, proven track record, loyal market and strong brand recall.

Thus, despite the challenging economic environment, there remains room for growth for companies looking to tap these entrepreneurs as partners to quickly expand their business.

Pacita U. Juan, president of the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc., says in an interview that franchising has become a popular mode for expansion because people are more familiar with its benefits compared to eight to 10 years ago when the concept first came to the Philippines.

"In our franchise shows, for example, people know what questions to ask, like how much is the total investment. Before,

LEARNING/ B2-2

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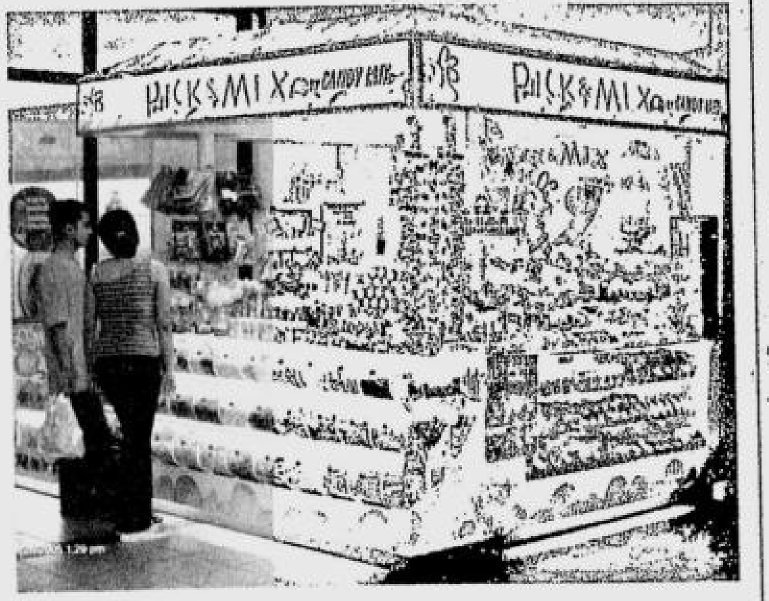
Ventures to get into ...

From page B2-1

Candy Mix



Started in February 1996, Candy Mix Plus Inc. is the first candy specialty store in the Philippines, pioneering the sale of candies by weight through the pick and mix basis.

In 2002, it was taken in by SM Toy World and Toy Kingdom as a consignor for its party favors section as a result of a combined partnership in developing candy toys, party needs and party accessories. A year after, it launched its franchising program.

To date, Candy Mix has 22 company-owned branches and 13 franchised outlets located both in Metro Manila and the provinces. It has also adopted its new trade name "Pick & Mix by Candy Mix" as part of its business development and marketing strategy.

Type of business:
Candy retail store
Franchise fee: P100,000
Total investment package:
Kiosk: P550,000
Cart: P330,000
Stand: P220,000
Terms of franchise:
Kiosk: 5 years
Cart: 4 years
Stand: 3 years
Package inclusive of:
1. Kiosk/cart with signage
2. Store equipment, wares
3. Initial inventory/supplies
4. Uniforms
5. Franchise fee

Support system includes:
1. Initial site evaluation
2. Set-up, installation of unit
3. Opening assistance
4. Training
5. Use of operations manual
6. Marketing support
7. Continuous sourcing, research and development of product line
8. Regular field visits

Preferred sites: nationwide
Requirements:
1. Letter of intent containing the applicant's complete address and contact number and the proposed site and location. (Pick & Mix will pre-qualify the site and schedule one-on-one meeting to discuss franchise procedures. Letter should be addressed to the franchise director)
2. Applicant should be a college graduate, financially stable and a Filipino citizen

Contact person:
Cecil B. Avito, franchise assistant
Office Address: GCW-2 Guanio Compound C. Raymundo Ave., Maybunga, Pasig City
Tel. No.:
628-2298; 641-6998
E-mail:
candymix_96@yahoo.com

Tacomio

QUESADILLA · NACHOS

Tacomio is a Mexican quick-service outlet, which offers 40 different products including all-meat burritos, quesadillas, soft tacos, nachos, taco salads, and Mexican pizzas.

Practically a rolling mini-Mexican restaurant, Tacomio serves its food hot off the grill and never starts a meal without the customer. Its salsas are made of tomatoes, onions and spices and doesn't use MSG in its products.

Tacomio now has six branches and hopes to grow through franchising.

Type of business:
Mexican quick-service kiosk
Franchise fee: P100,000
Equipment fee: P150,000 to P500,000
Training fee: P100,000
Royalty fee: 5 percent of monthly gross sales
Refundable deposit:
P50,000
Marketing fee: 3 percent of monthly gross sales (includes the one percent advertising fee)
Total investment package: starts at a minimum P350,000
Terms of franchise: 5 years
Package inclusive of:
1. Store operations manual
2. Use of trademark, logo
3. Cart 1.8 x .75m
4. Kitchen equipment, utensils, containers
5. Signage
6. Product shots
7. Initial inventory worth P5,000
8. Separate storage box
9. Pre-opening marketing materials like posters, flyers, etc.
10. Training which includes food preparation, portioning and product presentation, inventory keeping, labor and cost control, product shelf life, handling and storage, accounting and bookkeeping reports

Preferred sites: Recommended areas are schools, malls, neighborhood strip malls or commercial centers, and gasoline stations.

Projected ROI will depend on location of booth. After location has been pre-qualified, La Salsa Inc. will help make a feasibility study on the projected sales as a percentage of the foot traffic count multiplied by the average meal ticket

Requirement:
1. Area should at least be 3 sq.m. for carts

Contact person:
Leni Adriano, president
Tel. No.:
433-0439; 0917-825-8146
E-mail:
leni@pacific.net.ph
Website:
www.tacomio.com

Lots' A Pizza

Having been in the fast-food industry for more than 20 years, Lots' A Pizza Franchise Systems Inc. proves that all big things do start small. Aiming for the middle market, Lots' A Pizza was able to carve a niche in the pizza industry with its very own, unique mixture of tomato sauce, herbs and spices.

Since it opened its first franchise store in 2000, Lots' A Pizza has grown to more than 50 outlets, making it one of the fastest growing pizza franchises in the country today.

It also has an HACCP-compliant commissary ensuring strict adherence to good manufacturing practices and high-standard sanitation procedures.

Type of business:
Pizza food cart, kiosks, stalls
Franchise fee: P125,000
Royalty fee: none
Total investment package:
P400,000 to P500,000
Terms of franchise: 5 years
Package inclusive of:
1. Use of trade name, logos
2. Operations, systems, manual
3. Pre-opening and training support (franchisee gets 7-10 days of training and the service crew, two weeks)
4. Operations, field support
5. Marketing, special events
6. Research and development
7. Outlet construction and renovation
8. Initial supplies for dry run, equipment and utensils
9. Panaflex signage and modular menu board
10. Refundable security deposit
11. Operations and marketing collaterals

Preferred sites: Malls, commercial areas, high traffic areas
Projected ROI: 1-2 years
Requirements:
1. Applicants must be of good moral character with a high level of energy and commitment.
2. Must be willing to devote time for hands-on management
3. Letter of Intent containing sketch/picture of prospective franchise site, at least 10-15 sq.m.

Contact person:
Robert Ngan Tian, franchise director
Office address: Lots' A Pizza building, 28 Capricorn St., Pamplona Park, Las Piñas City
Tel. No.:
873-8435; 873-8414
Email:
lotsapizza@pacific.net.ph
Website:
www.lotsapizza.com.ph

Feet for Us

Started in August 2001, Feet For Us is a foot reflexology center engaged in providing Xiamen-style foot massage reflexology known for its soothing and healing powers. Its relaxing ambiance, coupled with de-stressing services, makes it a coveted destination for anyone after a long, hectic and stressful day.

Feet for Us adopts massage techniques that have been used thousand of years ago not only in China but in other countries as well. It uses traditionally formulated Chinese foot soak herbs, massage creams and herbal tea that gives relief to tired and aching feet as well as cure various illnesses.

It currently has six branches in Metro Manila and hopes to grow in the provinces through franchising.

Type of business:
Foot massage/reflexology center

Xiamen - Style Therapeutic Foot Massage for Men & Women

Franchise fee: P200,000
Royalty fee: 5 percent of monthly gross sales
Marketing fee: 2 percent of gross income monthly
Total investment package: starts at a minimum P500,000
Terms of franchise: 5 years
Package inclusive of:
1. Trade name license
2. Trademark
3. Methodology
4. Format of doing business.
5. Advisory service on promotions, business and other operational concerns.
6. Periodic visits to assure the system is being implemented properly.

Preferred sites: nationwide
Projected ROI: six to 10 months (depends on sales and other factors)
Requirements:
1. Prospective location should at least be 60 to 80 sq.m.
2. Potential franchisees should:
a. have good people skills
b. be enterprising and have a strong desire to succeed
c. can relate well with the target market i.e. local Chinese, elderly people, women, families
d. be willing to undergo full-time training in store operations

Contact person:
Bing Lontok, franchise and operations manager; Christian Oliver Chua, president
Office Address: Foot.Works Spa Inc., 34 Granada St. Villa Ortigas II, Quezon City
Tel. No.:
723-9031; (0910) 210-9840
E-mail:
feet_for_us@hotmail.com

Royal Caribbean Jamaican Patties

ROYAL CARIBBEAN

Since it opened its first outlet in Parañaque six years ago, Royal Caribbean has served students, teenagers and working people with its freshly baked Jamaican patties and its special blend of Caribbean drinks.

Jamaican patties consist of ground meat (beef or chicken) or vegetable filling seasoned with exotic Jamaican spices, wrapped in dough.

To date, it has more than 50 outlets (company-owned and franchises) and Southern Tagalog, Visayas and Mindanao regional offices and kitchen to oversee operations in the provinces.

Type of business:
Jamaican snacks and sandwiches carts/kiosks
Franchise fee: P250,000
Royalty fee: none
Advertising fee: 2 percent of gross monthly sales
Total investment package:
P450,000
Terms of franchise: 3 years
Package inclusive of:
1. Use of trade name, logos
2. Training
3. Store opening assistance
4. Store operation guidelines
5. Cart/kiosk, equipment
6. Advertising fee
7. Marketing, special events

Preferred sites: heavy pedestrian traffic areas such as schools, malls, hospitals, coliseums
Projected ROI: 9-12 months
Requirements:
1. Prospective site size should at least be 4 sq.m.
2. Applicant should have passion, interest and belief in company's product

Contact person:
Wool Reyes, vice president
Tel. No.:
842-5680; 772-1941
E-mail: woolreyes@royalcaribbean.com.ph
Website:
www.royalcaribbean.com.ph

Learning from three ...

From page B2-1

they would only ask how much was the franchise fee and then assume that the fee included the whole thing, store and all," Juan says.

The level of maturity is reflected in the exponential increase in the number of concepts available for franchising in the Philippines, dubbed the "Franchise Capital of Asia."

Data from the Philippine Franchise Association showed that the number of franchises operating in the Philippines surged from 111 in 1990 to 500 in 1999, and has grown by at least 50 a year.

Samie Lim, founding president of the PFA, said in a statement that the success of franchising could be measured in terms of the growth in the number of outlets and the ability to survive in the industry.

He said foreign franchises have a success rate of a high 96 percent, as proven by concepts such as McDonald's, Pizza Hut, 7-Eleven, Wendy's, Mister Donut, and KFC.

Local franchises dominating the scene include Jollibee Foods Corp., water distributor Agua Vida, shoe manufacturer Manel's and coffee chain Figaro Corp.

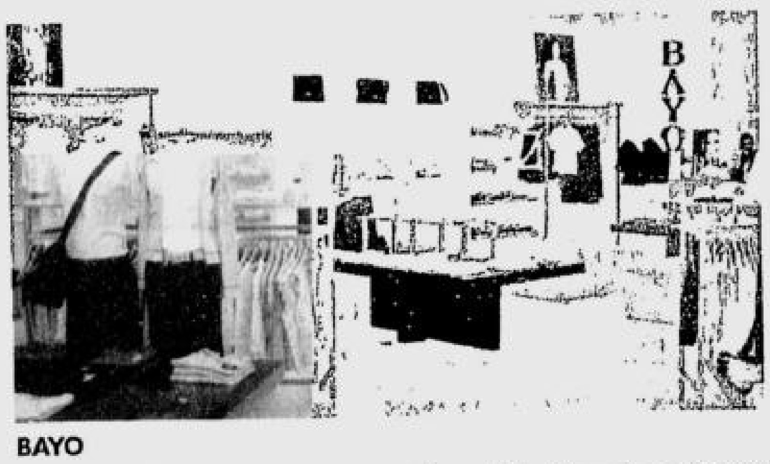
The latest PFA figures showed that franchise sales in the Philippines accounted for 1.2 percent of gross domestic product.

It was also estimated that out of the P30 billion generated by the services sector, about 45 percent were produced by franchises.

This may be traced to the domestic market in the Philippines, with a population of 86 million.

Franchising, however, is not for everybody.

HOTSHOTS



BAYO

Juan said a company should first have something valuable to offer franchisees, and all systems must be in place, before they even consider going the franchising route.

"Concepts that do well are mostly those that are unique and highly differentiated. They can be food (most common) or a service. If it is just a copycat or a knock off of an original brand, people will choose to franchise the original one," Juan says.

"Concepts also need to be dynamic. They have to adjust with the times. The best way to kill a brand is not to do anything," she says.

Franchisors should also take extra care in awarding franchisees, because they carry the company name. Their failure could bring down the entire company.

Business Friday features firms that took these concepts to heart and show how to do franchising the right way.

Hotshots

Filipinos have a fascination for hamburgers, thanks to American colonial mentality.

Hotshots, however, which was named the Most Promising Filipino Franchise of the Year for the food category by PFA during its last recognition ceremonies, has differentiated itself from the rest by offering flame grilled burgers that not only taste better, but also easier on the waistline.

Hotshots president Carlito B. Decena Jr. said Hotshots chooses its franchisees based on their passion for the company, and their sincere desire to make it work.

They do not simply take the first franchise application to come along.

"We want our franchisees to consider it as their business. It is easy for us to just sell a franchise, but we also want to protect our name and our franchisees," Decena says.

"We also consider our interpersonal relationships with franchisees as very important. We want to get to know them after a series of meetings. After all, we will do business with them for the next 10 years," Decena says.

Hotshots dished out its first burgers on Dec. 14, 1999 in Pasig City. It was a little more than a takeout counter with a few chairs and tables.

Today, it has seven more stores in the capital city, one in Baguio City (its first venture in the province) and one store in Jakarta, Indonesia (its first international store).

Decena says franchising was an ideal way to expand, especially in the provinces because he and his partners do not know the market as well as the entrepreneurs in the area.

Bench Fix

The Bench group has made a name for itself in the Philippine retail industry for its clothes, accessories and grooming line.

And since it was already in the grooming business, Bench group chair Ben Chan thought of taking the concept further and put up a trendy and hip salon, also to cash in on the growing fashion consciousness among Filipinos.

Thus was born Fix Bench Salon, also named by the PFA as the Most Promising Filipino Franchise of the Year for the service category.

Bench vice president Bryan C. Lim says that Bench Fix also goes slow on entering into franchise agreements because it wanted to make sure that the franchisees would get a decent profit out of the venture.

"Our first consideration is space. When we look at the proposed space, we first consider if we would get that space if we did it ourselves. If we already think that the store in that space will not make money, we do not grant the franchise," Lim says.

Lim adds that the group wanted to keep the ratio of franchisees to a maximum of two outlets to every five owned by the company.

In this way, Bench keeps close tabs of the business, which will benefit the franchisees.

The first Fix Bench Salon opened in October 2001 at Robinson's Place in Manila. From there the network grew to 30 stores, of which 24 are company-owned.

Fix Bench Salon has carved a niche for offering value for money hair styling to services to men and women.

Bayo

Bayo, which was also awarded Promising Filipino Franchise of the Year for the retail category by PFA, counts over 38 stores in its network, but has kept franchisees at 11.

Bayo president Ferdinand Agustin said the group intended to just grant franchisees in the provinces, where they are not as familiar with the market.

Agustin says the entrepreneurs they tap to be part of the network should come from the area where they will put up the store, and must have some experience in running a retail store.

"We also require them to undergo training, about two weeks to a month in a store so that they will have a feel for the whole operation. We want to be at the same level of thinking," Agustin says.

He says franchising was a good way of building the Bayo brand as it expands the store's reach with minimum capital outlay.

He says the company intended to keep all stores in Metro Manila owned by the company, and leave the provincial branches to the franchisees.

He adds that there are plans to eventually expand abroad.

Impossible idea from early morning drinking spree

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

CHRISTOPHE Bezu and the creative director of Adidas' ad agency were out drinking at three in the morning one time when an ingenious idea popped to their minds.

It could only have been the effects of alcohol on the brains to prompt someone to think of such an idea. But after implementation, it cemented Adidas efforts to create an image that it is an innovator—both in products and in marketing.

The idea became a reality in the vertical soccer billboard made during the 2002 World Cup Japan. The advertising featured two players hanging on rapelling harnesses from the side of a steel billboard. The ball was also tied that every 30 minutes there would be an exhibition.

Few Filipinos may have seen the "game" but that ingenious idea catapulted the German sports apparel firm as a leader in innovative sports marketing.

Hong Kong-based Bezu, SVP of Adidas AG and Head of the Asia Pacific region, is also on top of the firm's marketing campaigns. It is his job to constantly come up with marketing schemes with one message for the sports brand—very innovative products.

Competition in the sports apparel sector is an intense one. For the longest time Nike has been a leader and the top of the mind brand of athletes fans and enthusiasts but Bezu would like to believe that it has eaten up huge slices of the market share in recent years.

And its objective is to continue its aggressive and innovative (some would call it unusual) campaigns to be the number one brand in Asia—the biggest market in the world.

To achieve its goals, Adidas had earlier come up with three lines to address different market sectors it is targeting: Sports Heritage which brings back clothes and shoes worn by known athletes; Sports Performance which caters to the needs of athletes; and the Sports Style which serves a very high end niche that constitutes a small one percent of its market. Sports Style carries lines by Japanese desginer Yohji Yamamoto.

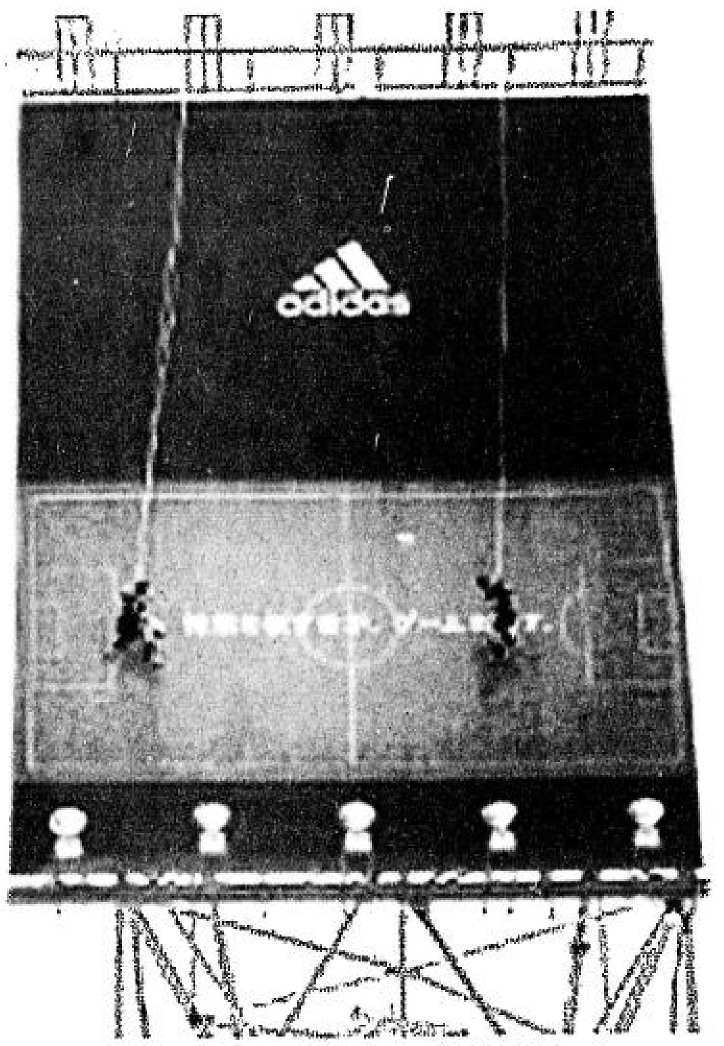
Women, Bezu noted has also been a growing market for Adidas but marketing strategies still have to be tailor fit to the different markets.

"In China, you have to localize everything; in the Philippines you have to use music," he observed.

He commented that the Philippine market is bigger today than in the past "but the issue is economics and that the Philippines does not seem yet to be on the Asian train of growth."

There are 2,000 Adidas stores in China with two new ones opening a day. However he added that there are also daily closures of shops but the target is still to have 5,000 shops by 2008. There are only a handful of Adidas boutiques in the Philippines.

CHRISTOPHE Bezu upon his recent visit to Manila where he spoke during the Philippine Marketing Association conference. ROGERMARGALLO



TBWA Japan

VERTICAL soccer billboard of Adidas cemented its campaign to be known not only as a product innovator but for as a leader in sports marketing.

What it means to be a Reader's Digest Superbrand

NO REWARD is more gratifying than getting the thumbs up from your consumers. The individuals behind the winning brands in the Reader's Digest SuperBrands Survey 2005 know this too well.

In its 7th year, the Reader's Digest SuperBrands Survey 2005, with partner Nielsen Media Research, asked consumers in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand to name their single preferred brand in 42 categories of products and services. The brands were ranked based on quality, value, trustworthiness, strong image and understanding of customer needs.

Gold SuperBrand status is awarded to brands whose performance rated significantly above others in their category. Platinum SuperBrand status is an extraordinary recognition to brands that achieve dominance or a rating score of at least three times the nearest other brand.

At the Winners' Recognition Night, Canon, a consistent Reader's Digest Superbrand bagged two Platinum awards in the office equipment and camera/digital camera categories, and a Gold award in the video camera category. "Our product has exemplified its reliability through the years," stated Ramon Arteficio, president and CEO of Canon Marketing Phils.

In his speech, Jose Cuisia Jr., president and CEO of Philamlife Insurance Co., acknowledges the many uncertainties that mark today's fast-changing world, making it increasingly more difficult for people to put their trust on institutions and products.

Making the grade in the pen category for the first time is BIC Ballpen. Mari Hautea, senior brand manager, attributes the award to BIC's quality.

For Edwin Sy, sales manager of Cosmos Bazar, Inc., distributor of Pilot Pen, the brand has succeeded in equating its name with quality. Speaking for Panda Ballpen, Sonny dela Rosa, Sales Supervisor of Golden Maple Industrial Corp., says "If I were the consumer, I too would vote for Panda because of its good quality and affordable price." All three share Gold SuperBrand status.

Voted as among the banks Filipinos trust are Gold SuperBrands, Metrobank and Philippine National Bank. "For winning the award two years in a row, Metrobank is very pleased to know that we continue to enjoy the trust and confidence of our clients. To a large extent, this award brings us closer to our mission of becoming a "premier universal bank of international standard." It has given us a wider exposure supported by public endorsement as we offer our products and services t o the domestic and foreign markets," shares Bernardito M. Lapuz, Metrobank senior vice president, corporate planning division.

Ana Belen F. Castelo, first vice President, corporate marketing and communications division of PNB, believes that "More than just top of mind awareness, to get consumers to actually vote for the brands they know, entails positive brand image and even favorable usage history of these brands." "Given these considerations," she says, "it is not surprising why PNB ended up scoring well in the survey. The PNB brand is a product of a long tradition of hard work and dedication to give banking clients the kind of service they deserve."

Enjoying Platinum status not just in the Philippines, but in all of Asia, is Nokia. "We are honored to be the brand trusted when it comes to mobile phones," declares Parikshit Bhasin, country general manager of Nokia Phils., Inc.

Another consistent winner, General Electric is accorded Gold SuperBrand status in the refrigerator category.

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We tell it as it is.

Courtship paid off when partner turned sixty

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

IT WAS a long courtship where one party was simply not interested. But the minute it showed interest, it was a fast walk to the altar.

And the change of heart came when the reluctant party turned 60 and wanted to do something big to celebrate.

The result is the Mercury Drug-Citibank Card, the foreign bank's first co-branded health and wellness card in the country.

During the card's launch, Mercury Drug founder Mariano Que joked, "It took me three years to court my wife, this marriage was consummated in seven months!"

A few months was all it took for the negotiations to be finalized and the agreement to be signed between the two firms which involves the earnings and add-ons of each party, the back-room requirements and others. However, Citibank official said they have been asking Mercury Drug for a co-branding project for years.

MICHELLINA Triwardhany, Citibank Cards business director; Nina Aguas, Citibank country business manager for Global Consumer Group; Mariano Que, founder of Mercury Drug; and Vivian Que-Azcona, Mercury Drug president

The Mercury Drug-Citibank Cards gives rebates to cardholders when they purchase medicines and other items at the drug store which has 500 branches nationwide. It also tied up with some establishments to provide privileges and benefits to the cardholders.

"Every Filipino would have had at least one visit to Mercury Drug. This opened a new market for us," says Michellina Triwardhany, Citibank Cards business director.

Citibank is banking on the vast market reached by the drug store chain which caters to the A to E markets.

"There is a big overlap with our target market and Mercury Drug's which is one of the most well-known brands in the country." Triwardhany says.

However the card is only for those who have a minimum annual income of P120,000 a year.

The co-branding has paved the way for other merchants to seek co-branding with Citibank. However, the bank says it has to carefully study which retailers would be good partners.

"Before we could not imagine there was opportunity for co-branding but now we see it. Some co-brands are successful some are not. It depends on the size of business of the co-brand. Your proposition must always be what do consumers get out of it," says Bea Tan.

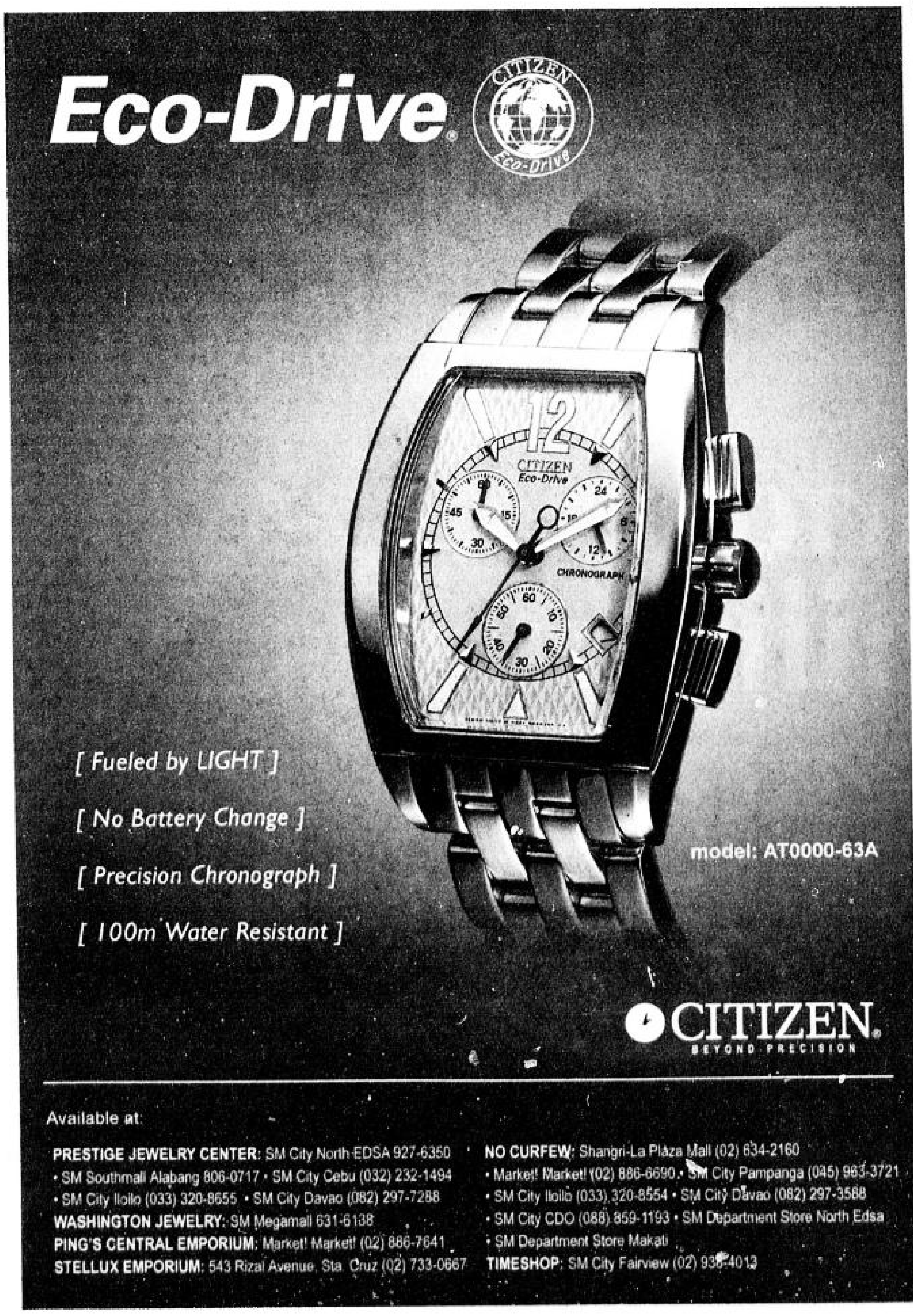
BEA Tan, Citibank Cards acquisition head

"We have to be careful with our partners. Investment is required to put up the system needed and relationships are also very important," Tan points out.

She says the Philippine market continues to have a high potential because it remains a cash society—meaning majority of the consumers still use cash to pay for their transactions instead of credit cards.

She points out that in the Philippines only 4 percent of personal consumption is paid for by credit cards; while in Thailand, the level is at 8 percent.

Dining out remains the most charged activity largely because of the Filipinos penchant for eating out. And grocery purchases are also now paid for by credit cards.



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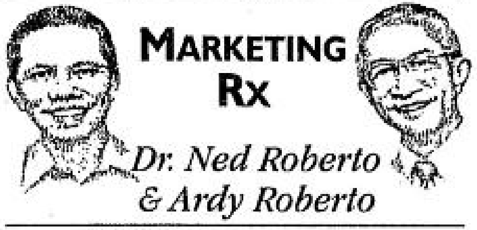
'Why do customers keep on coming back even if I have bad service?'–Part 1



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: I'M AN avid reader of your column. There were previous occasions when you warned those of us in service marketing that if we get a zero rating from our customers in even just one of the four determinants of a satisfactory service, we would lose customers. I run a chain of several "Pares" restaurants catering to the Class D and even Class E eating-out crowd who like my rice-toppings. You said this: Customers may give a top score of 10 to my product, a 10 to my service staff, and another close to 10 to my service outlet. But if I get a zero in my service processing, then I'd lose business because 10 x 10 x 10 x 0 = 0. I thought that Rx of yours was really cool. But every so often, one or two of my Pares branches get a zero in service when a new service crew, for example, serves the rice topping with his thumb digging into the rice bowl. Or a zero in service outlet when the table or floor or toilet is not that clean. And yet, even in these "bad" branches, customers keep coming back. There must be something wrong in your service marketing "principle." Or will my luck run out soon?

A: First of all, it's not "our" service marketing principle. It was the guru of service marketing, Chris Lovelock of the Harvard Business School, who formulated that "cool" principle. This is not doing a Pontius Pilate on our part. It's to acknowledge our intellectual indebtedness for some of the ideas that our Marketing Rx column every now and then invokes.

As to your question, we are in fact happy that you wrote about your experience challenging the applicability of this "multiplicative principle" in our local setting. We have an on-going research whose emerging results are also supporting that challenge. Now that you asked the question, we'd like to share those fairly solid though still-to-be completed research results and in the process answer your question.

The research we're talking about are "ethnographic studies" of in-store consumer behavior, that the senior MRx-er regularly does with his students. An ethnographic study is an observation study with or without a post-observation interview. Your case would need (for validation) an ethnographic study with post-observation interview. During the interview, we ask consumers to explain some of the actions (verbal as well as non-verbal) that needed explaining, and then to rate the store on each of those four service satisfaction determinants.

Just in case you're curious about those observed in-store consumer actions requiring explanations, you'll find a good number of examples in our upcoming seminars, the nearest one is the INQUIRER sponsored, Marketing Solutions Forum on July 11. Here, we're not dealing with that part of the post-observation interview and so we're just providing one useful reference source. Our concern is with the second portion having to do with the satisfaction ratings.

Forgiving 'masa'—cases of Big Mak, Burger Machine

The first serious challenge to Lovelock's "service satisfaction principle" came from our students' ethnographic research on customers of Burger Machine, Franks and Big Mak. This was particularly true of studies of these burger kiosks in the provinces. Rating of the service venue in terms of cleanliness and comfort is often practically zero, and in most cases exactly zero. (How can you be clean when you're situated along the streets of the Philippines!) And yet when asked about their intention to come back, an unbelievable three-fourths to four-fifths gave a "definitely will" response!

When asked to explain the seeming inconsistency between this repeat patronage intention versus their zero rating of the place's cleanliness and comfort, here are two of the quotable, consumer insight-rich responses:

"Okay na okay naman kasi yung pagkain. Lalo na yung coleslaw. *Ang sarap nila talaga. Di na bale yung di siya talagang malinis at yung upuan di ka maka-relax. Di naman kami pumunta dito para mag-relax. At saka yung dumi, sabi nga nitong kasama ko, kaya masarap yan dahil sa konting dumi." (Tumawa)*

(It's okay because of the food. Especially the coleslaw. They're really tasty. Never mind that it's not that clean and that you can't relax in the seat. After all, we didn't come here to relax. As my companion here says, it's the dirt that makes the food really tasty.) [Laughs]

"Kasi ang bait nung nagseserve bukod sa masarap na ang pagkain. Makuwento pa siya. Nangangamusta pa. Me pa-mis mis ko na kayo dyan na parang kaibigan mo. Nakakagana tuloy kumain. Yan namang linis, eh kasi pina-rate ninyo pero kita naman ninyong di kalinisan talaga, di mababa siyempre. Pero ano pa ba hahanapin mo sa ganyang mura pero ang sarap naman ng pagkain at ugali ng tao nila?"

(It's because the service staff is kind aside from the good food. She even tells stories and asks how you are telling us she misses us as if she were a friend. That adds to your appetite to eat. On cleanliness, you asked us to rate this when you can already can see it's really not that clean, so the rating is really low. But what more do you want from a place that's cheap but the food and the service staff are great?)

We have found this same kind of "forgiving" customers in our other ethnographic studies of shoppers in Baclaran stalls, farmer clients of rural banks, and customers of carinderias and office canteens.

What this repeated consumer insight led us to do is to appropriately modify Lovelock's service satisfying principle and to accordingly restate it in two parts:

Part 1: "When you have customers who are 'unforgiving' in the sense that one mistake can wipe out your 5 or even 10 good points, the multiplicative principle applies. So with this customer segment, you must be consistently excellent in ALL FOUR determinants of a satisfactory service."

Part 2: "When you have customers who are 'forgiving' in that they try to understand (and at times, even make excuses in their minds for you) as to why you are deficient in one or two of the four determinants of a satisfactory service, then it is the additive and not the multiplicative principle that applies. So you just make sure you are excellent in the one or two determinants that matter most to these customers so that where you excel will compensate for your deficiency in the remaining determinants."

For clarity, a brief explanation of the "additive principle" is in order. Let's recall and take your specific case as the example to explain. Here are your multiplicative scores:

Total satisfaction score = (10 in food satisfaction) x (10 in service staff satisfaction) x (10 in service venue satisfaction) x (0 in service processing satisfaction) = 0 total satisfaction score out of 10,000 total = 0 of the total

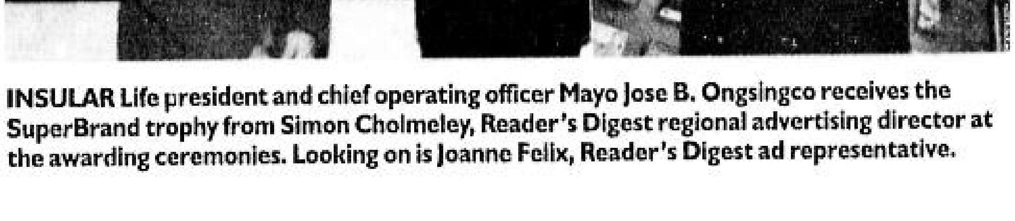
But if your customer segment is into the "additive" satisfaction process, your additive scores will be:

Total satisfaction score = (10 + 10 + 10 + 0) = 30 total satisfaction score out of 40 total = 75 percent of the total (which is not bad at all)!

It should now be clear to you that your case belongs to Part 2 of the customer satisfaction model. You have customers who are forgiving and process their experience in your Pares restaurant along the additive principle.

Read next Friday's issue when we finish answering the question, 'Will my luck run out soon? Will my customers remain forgiving?"

Keep your questions or comments coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.



INSULAR Life president and chief operating officer Mayo Jose B. Ongsingco receives the SuperBrand trophy from Simon Cholmeley, Reader's Digest regional advertising director at the awarding ceremonies. Looking on is Joanne Felix, Reader's Digest ad representative.

SAY it with jewelled flowers /F1

LIFESTYLE

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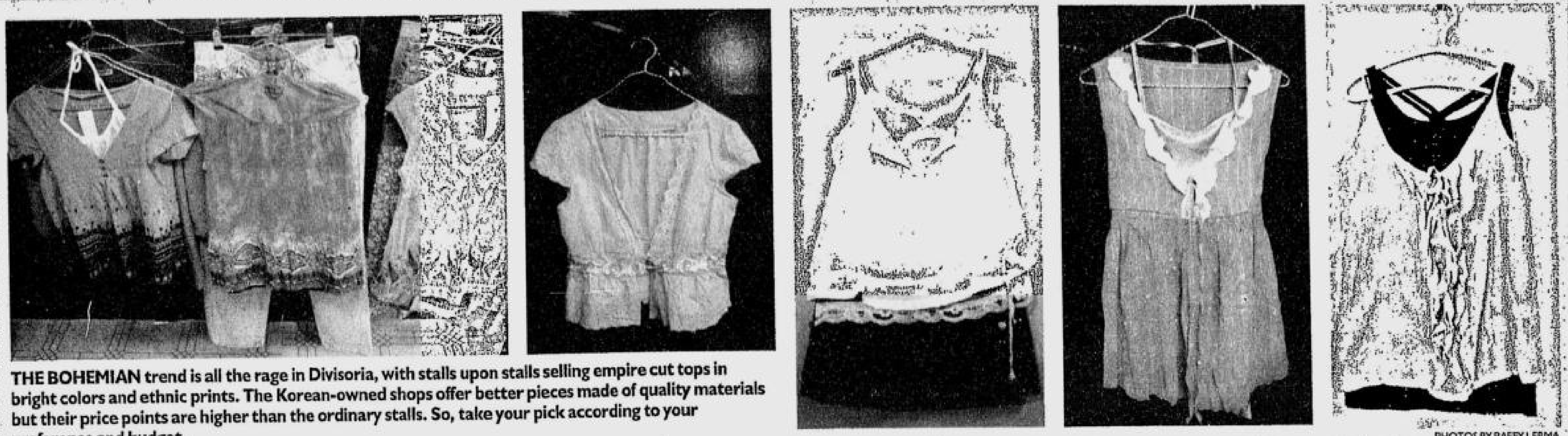
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**



THE BOHEMIAN trend is all the rage in Divisoria, with stalls upon stalls selling empire cut tops in bright colors and ethnic prints. The Korean-owned shops offer better pieces made of quality materials but their price points are higher than the ordinary stalls. So, take your pick according to your preference and budget.

PHOTOS BY RAFFY LERMA

Fab finds in divine Divi

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

DIVISORIA is such a treasure trove of ultimate bargains and unusual finds. I've been going there since I was 10, usually tagging along with my mother who would buy things in bulk to prepare for the birthday parties she would organize for each of her four children. Through the years, I've made it a point to go at least once yearly to stock up on ribbons, wrappers and whatever else I can discover.

When my editor asked me to do a "Divi" story, I was thrilled. There were so many things about the place I could share with readers. Plus, I knew there were a lot more treasures to unearth. I immediately called my friend, Tess Santos, to ask her to come with me while I did my research. She's always ready for an adventure and a really savvy shopper, which makes her the perfect companion.

Initially, I thought of simply focusing on fashionable finds, but I soon realized that there are too many other aspects that make Divisoria as spellbinding as it is. So, I've decided to feature a host of my favorite things.

D-Day finally arrived and together with Tess and Raffy, our young, enthusiastic photographer, we set off for downtown at midmorning. Some Divi aficionados head out as early as 7 a.m., but we decided to get a good night's sleep instead.

In any case, Tess wisely suggested that we start the day with a big meal so we don't get hungry while doing the rounds. So, a little before lunch, we found ourselves in neighboring Binondo in Sincerity Restaurant along Nueva Street. And there we discovered our first fabulous find in the form of a gastronomic treat. In this tiny, unassuming restaurant, I found the best fried chicken I've tasted in my whole life. Crispy outside, tender inside and tasty till the very bone. Apparently, Sincerity is known for this and people come in droves to take home the chicken and reheat it. So, make sure you try it out when you do decide to trek down to the area.

From the restaurant, we took a five-minute *pedicab* ride to Divisoria Mall, a three-story structure that is located in the heart of Divi's wholesale shopping district.

Stalls upon stalls

Here you can find stalls upon stalls that sell items similar to those you'll find in the Greenhills *tiangge*. But if you're patient, you might also chance upon unique, quirky and up-to-

FAB/ C2

DIVI is definitely a haven for bargain hunters. Here, Tess and I check out a messenger bag and tote that cost only P180 each!

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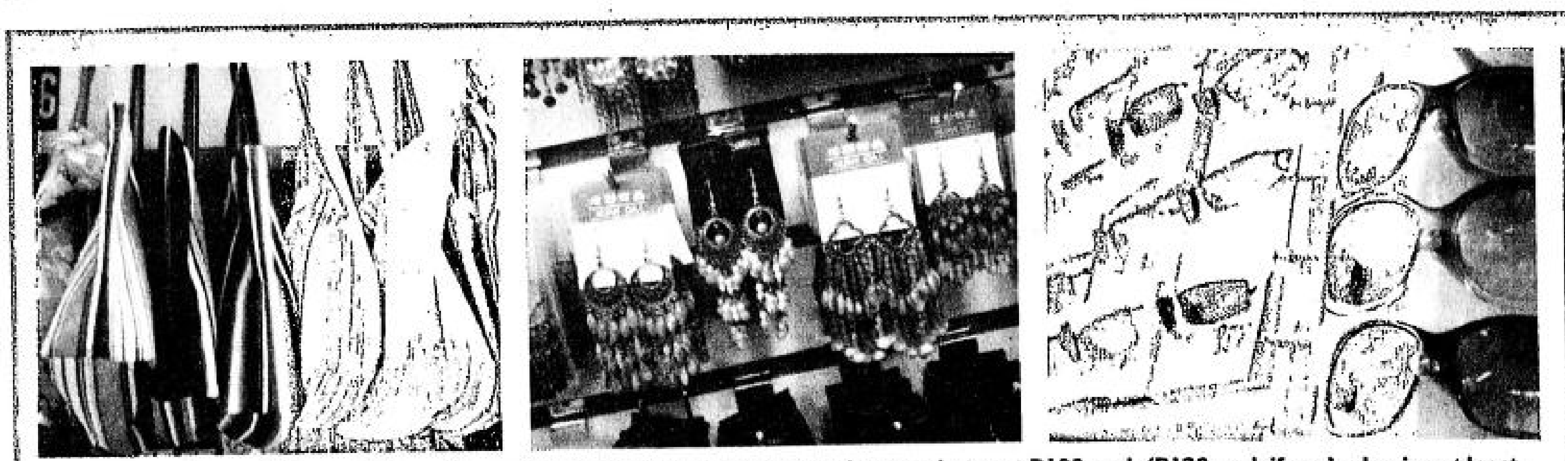
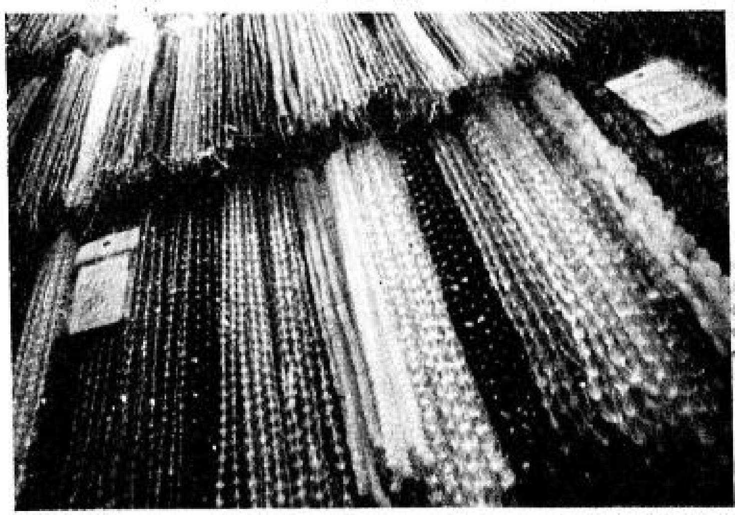




168 Mall is replete with fantastic bargains and eye candy, from colorful beach totes that cost P180 each (P120 each if you're buying at least six), assorted, multi-hued glass beads, a wide variety of chandelier earrings that are making a comeback this season and cost a measly P100 a pair, and big generic sunglasses, which are also very popular nowadays and cost a mere P100 a pair.

PHOTOS BY RAFFY LERMA

Fab finds in divine Divi

From page C1

the-minute pieces.

On the third floor is one such shop that offers items from Korea. Check out its funky shoes and T's that are not available in the usual malls. The glass-enclosed shop is located right beside the escalators and Baker's fair, a bakery that sells mouth-watering, freshly-baked mini-*hopias*.

After our fashion foray in Divi Mall, we hit the surrounding streets for some staples. Along Tabora St. are various offerings such as baskets, kitchenware and costumes for Halloween, school plays or theme parties. Here, you'll also find Morning Glory, a wonderful source of ribbons, buttons, trimmings and what not.

Meanwhile, you can score a wide selection of wrapping paper, boxes, gift tags and office supplies from Golden Era, which is located along M.D. Santos, a street perpendicular to Tabora. And if you're still searching for more treats, try out the best *tinapang galunggong* and *bangus* from Ms Eloisa. She normally holds court with her basket of goodies right outside Golden Era so you can't miss her.

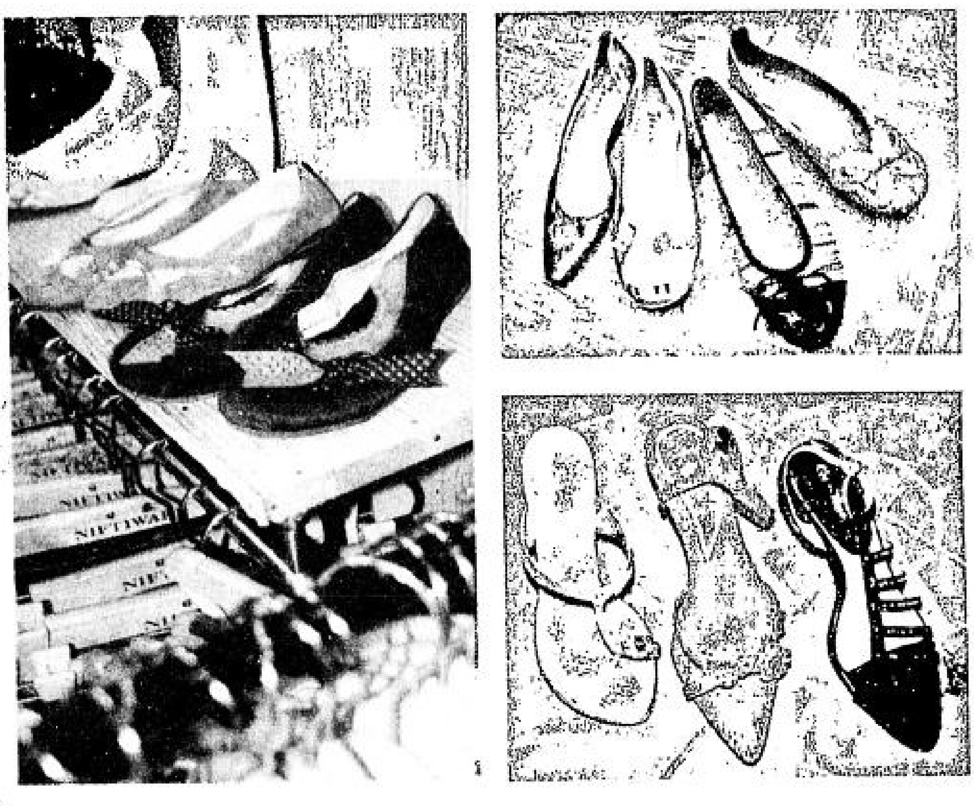
Next stop, the relatively new 168 Mall, which is five minutes away by foot from the corner of Tabora and M.D. Santos. Once again, you'll find items exactly like the ones in Divisoria Mall. But with eagle eyes and a keen fashion sense, you'll also stumble on trendy pieces of acceptable quality. The bohemian trend was evident as gauzy, printed empire cut tops filled racks and displays. You'll also chance upon a selection of basic pieces like cotton tees and tanks.

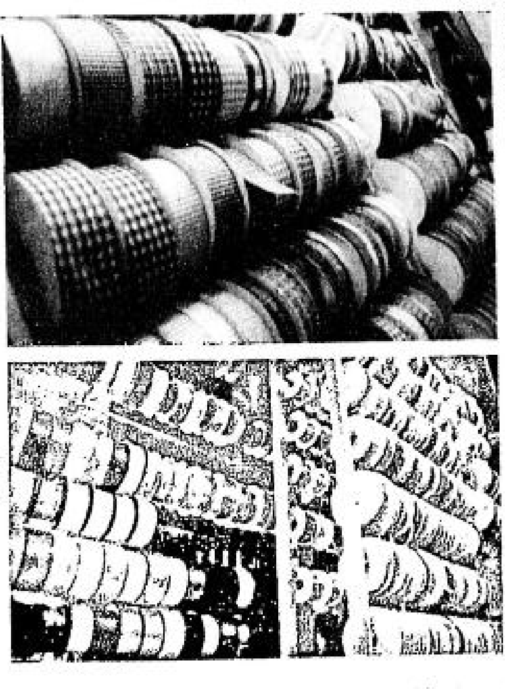
We ended the day at around 4:30 in the afternoon so you'll probably need at least, a day to go around and shop. If your schedule permits, it's wise to plan your "Divi" sojourn on a weekday so it's not too crowded. It's also best to dress in simple, comfortable clothing, as it gets very hot and suffocating. And use a zippered bag that you can keep close to you at all times to secure your belongings.

It's no breeze to venture into this shopper's paradise (or nightmare, depending on your comfort zone), but it has its rewards. Most, if not all, of the items I found cost but a fraction of the price they usually do in regular malls like Glorietta, Power Plant or Shangri-La. And if you're buying in bulk, you can even get wholesale prices. But more than that, the wealth of experience (the sights, sounds and smell!) is incomparable and definitely well worth all the inconvenience.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com.

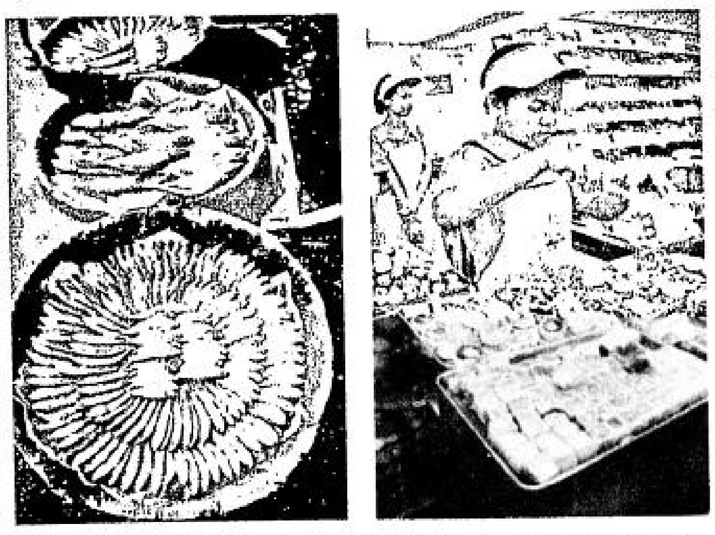
IMELDIFIC shoe lovers will enjoy the vast array of shoes found in little shops that sell Korean-made items. The quality is quite good and the choices are surprisingly up-to-the-minute. Prices range from P1,500 and above.





ALONG Tabora Street is Morning Glory, a store that offers ribbons, buttons, beads and other such trimmings. Tess and I contemplate which colors and styles to hoard while I quietly mutter, "Eat your heart out, Martha Stewart." One-inch thick satin ribbons cost as low as P70 for 50 yards while one-inch organza ribbons cost P105 for 50 yards. Ribbons on sale go for as low as P25 per roll.

JUST around the corner from Morning Glory is Golden Era, where you can find reams upon reams of wrapping paper for only P3 each, wholesale (meaning, you'll have to buy a minimum number of sheets). The store, located along M.D. Santos, also offers boxes of all sizes, gift cards and office supplies.



IF YOU'RE craving for gastronomic treats, check out Ms Eloisa's *tinapa*. Her store is located right outside Golden Era and her goodies sell for P100 for three boneless *bangus* or P100 for a kilo of *galunggong*. Or try Baker's Fair's freshly baked mini-*hopia* at the third level of Divisoria Mall.

Sexier fit, greater comfort

BOBSON's latest denim collection has been revolutionized and enhanced for a new, better fit, with designs that are unique, exclusive and fit for different body types.

Bobson denims for ladies come in different cuts and styles that enhance the figure and give a flattering fit. Ladies will love the comfort, while guys will fall for the look.

Also available are trendy bottoms, among them the Kelly, which sits low at the waist, tight-fitting at the thighs and knees and flared at the legs. Then there's Chelsy, which are figure-hugging slim denims that cling to the hips, thighs and knees.

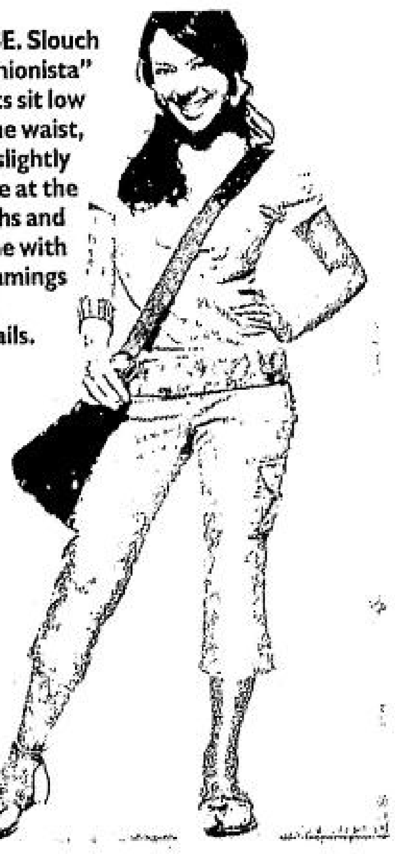
Christen are low waist bootleg jeans with just the right fit at the thighs for a comfortable yet slimming look. Rose are slouch "fashionista" pants that sit low at the waist and are slightly loose at the thighs with a wide leg opening. The pair comes complete with trimmings and details.

Lastly, there's Laura--mid-waist, straight-cut denims that mold to the hips.

Bobson's denims are available in a variety of washings and designs. They make use of contrast stitches or two-tone stitches not common to other brands, setting them apart from other jeans in the market. Smaller back pockets are used for a sexier look. And since Bobson is a local manufacturer, the brand's style is very Filipino.

Perfectly matched with these bottoms are Bobson's array of tops. Cool and casual, they go well with anything, giving you the option to mix and match.

The collection is available at all Bobson boutiques and outlets. Visit www.bobson.com.



ROSE. Slouch "fashionista" pants sit low at the waist, are slightly loose at the thighs and come with trimmings and details.

KELLY. Sits low at the waist, are tight-fitting at the thighs and knees and have flared legs

CHELSY. Low-waist figure-hugging slim denims cling at the hips, thighs and knees.

FRILLS add a sultry touch to a green print dress.

BABY-BLUE striped bikini

PINK cardigan and white pants

BLACK F&H logo tee

HOT-PINK top and white pants

belts visor backpacks clutch
lowrise bootcut jeans classic
twill halter tops pique pol
fullzip hood
july1-31
SALE
GAP
BANANA REPUBLIC
OLD NAVY
InStyle Glorietta 3
2F Ayala Center Makati
InStyle Shangri-La Plaza Mall
The5th, Level 5
InStyle Robinsons Place Manila
Level 2, Padre Faura Wing
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 3715 Series of 2005

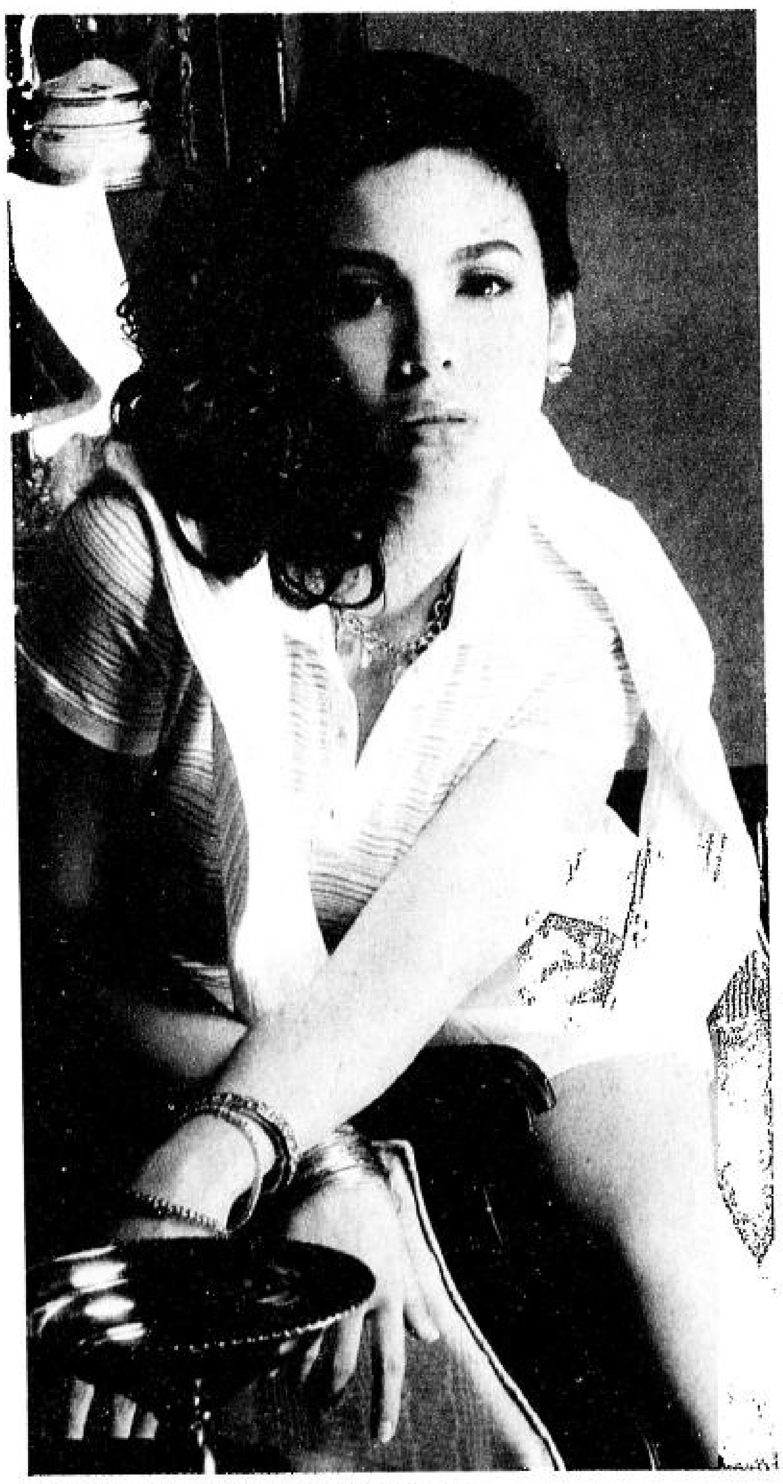
Subdued but wild

FOLDED & Hung's new collection, modeled by Claudine Barretto, comes in lilac, lavender, blue, and nude flesh tones.

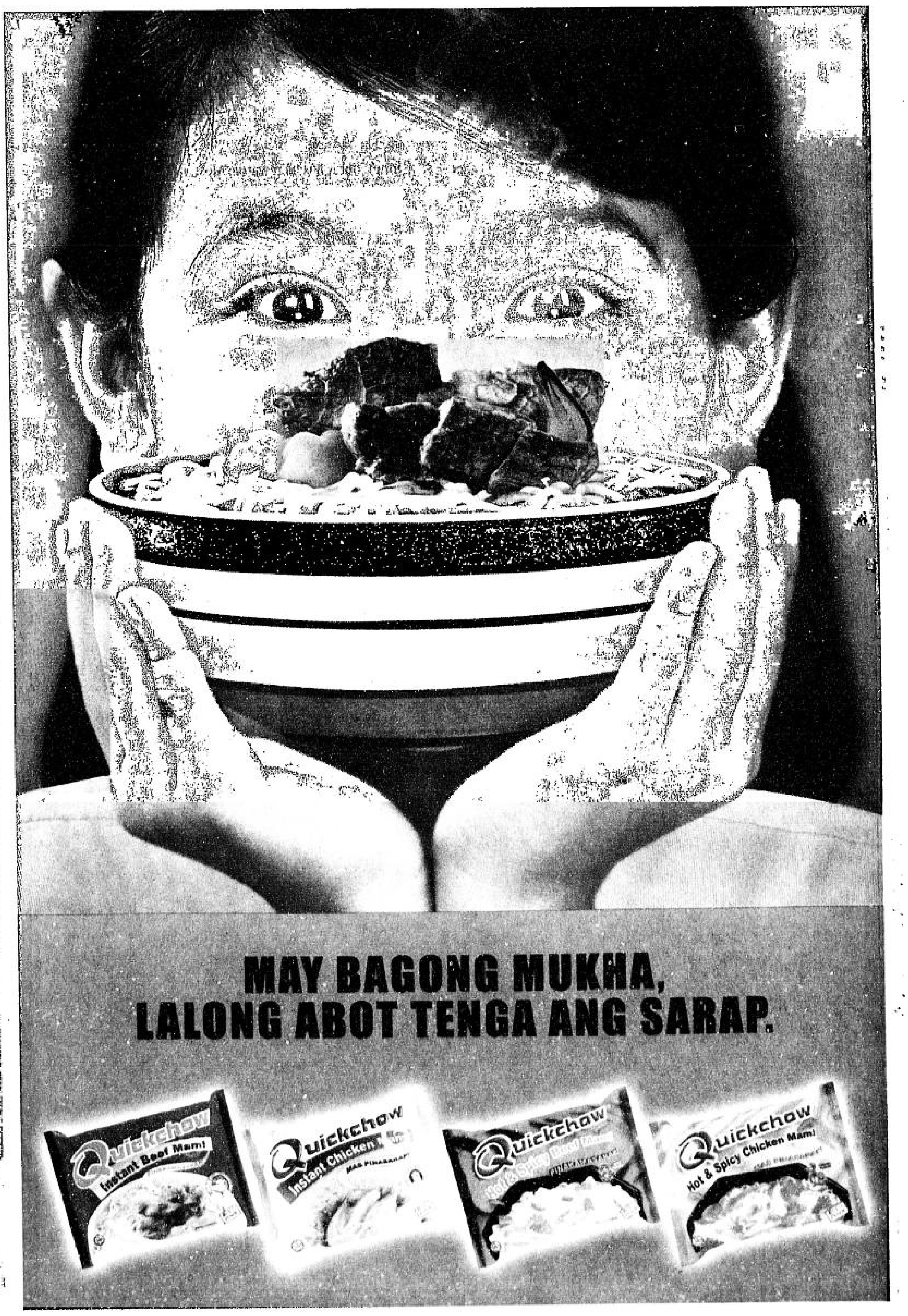
Glimpses of a wild streak are the clothes in hot fuchsia, sunshine pink, coral-toned geranium, pistachio, and acid green. Neutral white blends with tones of earth. Kiwi and watered lime, chartreuse, sulfur khaki green, mint, fir, moss, gun metal, and copper green bring the collection to new heights.

A mixture of materials in plains and prints are layered in an interesting fusion. Silk, cotton and ramie show off natural imperfections for texture. Patterns are everywhere: paisley and geometrics, checks and speckles.

Folded & Hung's evening wear comes in tones of teal, beige, burgundy and black, in printed satin and lacquered chiffon. Accents are gold charm necklaces and gold cuffs.



THE TENNIS outfit gets a Hollywood spin.


MAY BAGONG MUKHA,
LALONG ABOT TENGA ANG SARAP.
Quickchow Instant Beef Mami
Quickchow Instant Chicken
Quickchow
Quickchow Hot & Spicy Chicken Mami

Call for entries to Philippine Fashion Design tilt

AFTER Garimon Roferos' second place finish at last year's International Competition of Young Fashion Designers in Paris, the Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines (FDCP), Saga events + models, Ayala Center and media partner Metro Magazine have decided to search anew for this year's official representatives through the Philippine Fashion Design Competition (PFDC) 2005.

This year's edition will be the first time that representatives for both the Apparel and Accessories Divisions will be selected. FDCP and the Cebu Fame Foundation join forces to select and mentor the semi-finalists in preparation for the Fashion Show/Competition Finals Night on Oct. 20 at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City, to be directed by Robby Carmona.

This year's theme for the Apparel Division will be "Art, Fashion and Industry," with participating countries free to interpret the theme according to their own cultural references. The FDCP, for its part, has adopted the theme of "Baro't Saya: Unity in Diversity" to showcase the traditional separates in indigenous materials and native patterns.

All entries in the Apparel Division must be an original interpretation of the said themes. As for the Accessories Division, no theme has been prescribed, but all entries (jewelry, necklace, brooch, belt, etc.) must be technically feasible for reproduction at market price conditions for possible marketing purposes.

The top 10 entries for the Apparel and top five for the Accessories Divisions will be fielded to represent the Philippines in the International Competition on Dec. 15 at the Carrousel de Louvre in Paris. The local Grand Prize winners for each division will receive a free roundtrip ticket to Paris to attend the international competition.

The Grand Prize Winner of the International Competition will receive a one-year scholarship to the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture, a scholarship of 3,000 euros, and a ticket for an Air France intercontinental flight. The International jury will also bestow an Incentive Award of 450 euros to a designer from each participating country (except the country which has already won the grand prize). Special Prize winners will receive training courses from The Lesage School of Art Embroidery as well as a sewing and embroidery machine.

Application forms and contest guidelines may be downloaded from www.fdcp.org or secured from the FDCP Secretariat located at Unit 5-B, G/F Classica Tower, 114 H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Application period is open until July 15.

Unwanted Hair Nightmares?
Make Your Hair-Free Dreams Come True!

If you think you've been battling with unwanted hair for the longest time...then it's time you win the battle for good and wake up to satin-smooth, hair-free skin!

LaserLight Hair Removal gives you the power over unwanted body hair. So you never have to deal with it ever again! FDA-approved for the permanent reduction of unsightly, unwanted hair anywhere on your body, LaserLight sets you free from the discomforts and inconvenience of old hair removal methods. Now you don't have to hide your legs under pants anymore as you wait for your next tedious waxing session...or undergo the discomforts of shaving almost everyday...or wax your upper lip twice a week...or bear the inconvenience of tweezing and plucking your underarm hair... or the unpleasant smell and painful, burning sensation you get from waxing your bikini lines. Old methods that give only temporary results (your unwanted hair keeps coming back, sometimes even sooner than you expect!) and leave you with "chicken skin" and other irritating rashes, cuts or nicks.

Now you can do whatever you want and wear just about anything (even the sexiest clothes and skimpiest swimsuits) without worrying about unwanted hair peeking out from unexpected places.

LaserLight is so quick and effective (treatment time for your underarms is as quick as 5 minutes!) many satisfied clients are now enjoying their soft, silky-smooth, hair-free skin. One of them, former actress turned restaurateur Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez says, "I'm happy – very happy. I really recommend LaserLight because it's for life. You know, if you think about it...you'd be waxing for life, shaving for life...in the end you'd be spending the same thing. But this one's already for life, so it saves time and everything. Plus the results: *makinis...maganda...maputi*. It's really worth it."

Popular disc jockey Delamar couldn't agree more: "With cold wax (which I used to remove my underarm hair before), I only get 5 days of hair-free underarms. After that, the hair starts growing back and I'm in trouble again. The time in-between waxing sessions is the worst. I couldn't wear sleeveless because I had to let the hair grow so I can wax it again. Luckily, with LaserLight, I don't have to go through all that. Now I proudly flaunt my underarms anytime."

Makeup Artist Barbi Chan recounts her own story: "I was obsessed with getting rid of my underarm hair. Waxing, plucking, threading...name it, I've done it. But they can't keep the hair gone for long and they even made my underarms dark, sometimes greenish in color. It really freaked me out! I used creams and different products to lighten my underarms but to no avail: That's why I was more than happy when I had LaserLight Hair Removal. It didn't only get rid of my unwanted hair for good – it also whitened my underarms! Now, even total strangers at the gym approach me and ask what I did to have such soft, white, hair-free underarms. They would even ask if they could take a closer look. I just raise my arms and proudly announce – I had LaserLight!"

LaserLight is truly the only treatment that gave these women complete satisfaction. As Actress/Singer Isay Alvarez says, "LaserLight is definitely 100% effective. For us actors, it's really one of the greatest things to come along."

It's never too late or too early to avail of LaserLight Hair Removal. You can really make your hair-free dream come true!

For a FREE consultation, call the Facial Care Centre professionals at **892-SKIN.**

"It didn't only get rid of my unwanted hair for good – it also whitened my underarms!"

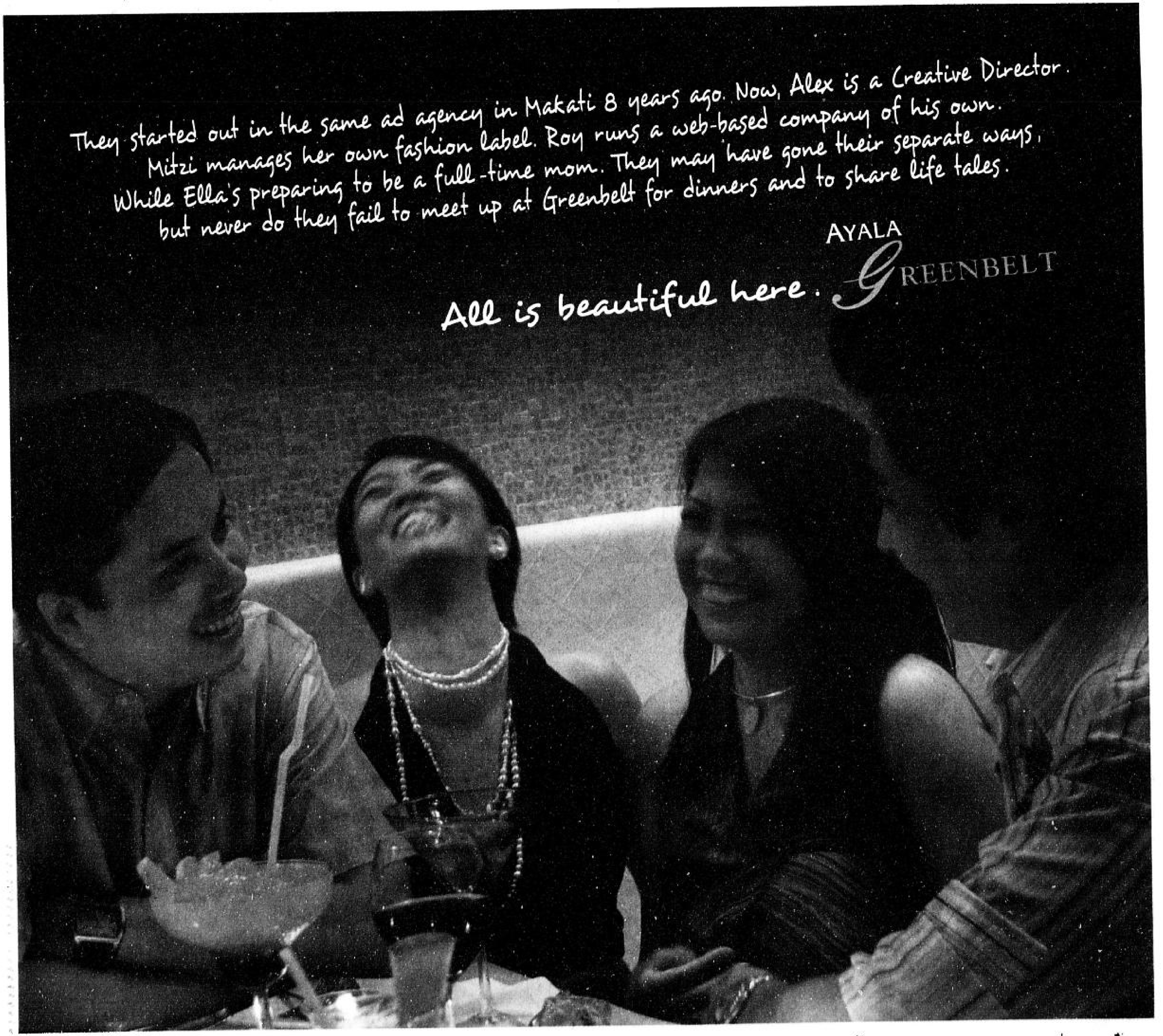
"LaserLight is definitely 100% effective"

"I'm happy – very happy. I really recommend LaserLight because it's for life."

"Now I proudly flaunt my underarms anytime."

Barbi Chan

Isay Alvarez



They started out in the same ad agency in Makati 8 years ago. Now, Alex is a Creative Director.
Mitzi manages her own fashion label. Roy runs a web-based company of his own.
While Ella's preparing to be a full-time mom. They may have gone their separate ways,
but never do they fail to meet up at Greenbelt for dinners and to share life tales.
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DUNKIN' DONUTS

ERNEST Santiago before his lotus pond

Ernest Santiago opens another hit destination

The designer has extended his creative domain to Lucban, Quezon, with a smashing new space

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

THREE editors and a yellow Labrador decided to get away over the weekend and check out Ernest Santiago's new masterpiece destination in Lucban, Quezon. I, Alya (Honasan), Carlo (Tadiar), Joseph (Uy, non-editor but mega-stressed nonetheless) and Banana—of course, the "lab."

Like many single guys and girls today, Alya can't bear to be away from her dog so we had to bring "Nana" along. These single guys and girls believe that you can dump (or get dumped by) your girl/boyfriend, but you can't dump your dog simply because it is easily more faithful, reliable, ever present—and far less complicated. (It's easier to teach your dog new tricks than your man.) That's why, when they break up, some couples have joint custody of the dog. But that's another story.

Anyway, we wanted to bond—and to test the severity of Joseph's gout—so we accepted Ernest's invite to see his place and try his Lucban *longganisa*.

The sprawl is just a little over two-hour drive from Manila, and I must say, it's the most beautiful Ernest has done so far. Of course, people know that Ernest has a café/home in Pagsanjan and has turned Pagsanjan into a yuppie destination. Now, his Lucban development is even much more attractive.

ERNEST/ D2

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3125, Series of 2005
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- Not valid with other flavors, crusts or sizes, functions, bulk orders, other promos or discounts.

*For delivery, order will come with 4 Iced Tea cups and delivery prices apply.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3665, Series of 2005

A 30-year all time favorite! It's Shakey's "heavy weight" pizza... loaded with 11 delicious toppings- beef, Italian sausage, pepperoni, ham, salami, cheddar cheese, salami bits, mushroom, green pepper, onions & black olives. Enjoy it with your choice of Thin Crust, Super Pan or New York Crust.
Try it now for as low as P185* and get the ultimate pizza experience only from Shakey's!

*dine-in price, exclusive of 10% service charge

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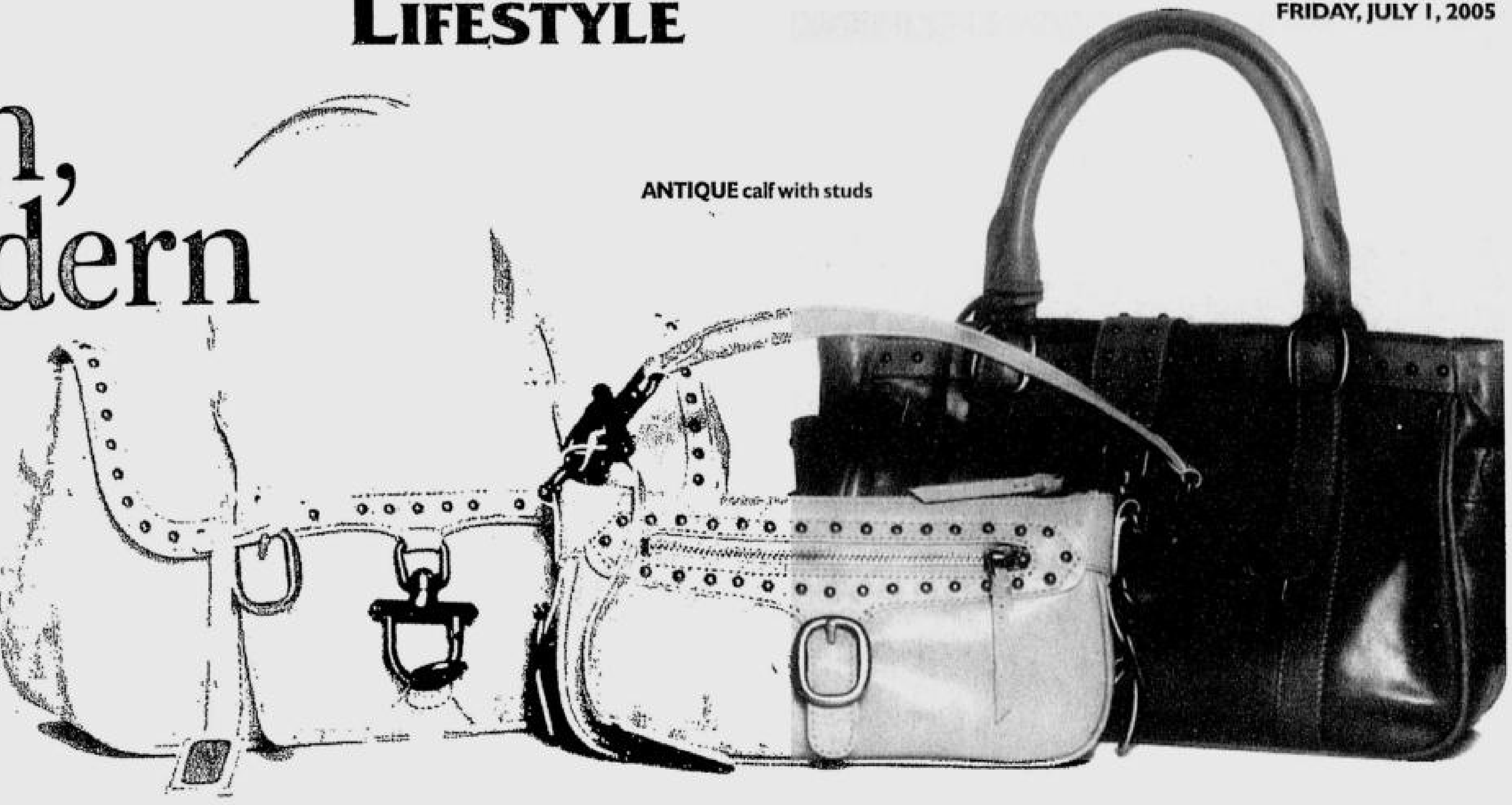
DKNY's leather bags are embellished with whimsy: bow-accented pleated hobo or clutch, ruffle-front linen shopper, flower straw basket, stud and buckled satchels or chained-strapped shiny patents.

Sexy soles come in white strappy flats, wedges or heels, ankle-wrapped espadrilles, straw flip flops and structured leather thongs. Add height with corked wedges, whether ankle-strapped or jewel-studded. Or let super-sleek T-straps give you a long, lean and leggy look.

DKNY is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc., with shops located at the Power Plant Mall, Rustan's Makati, 158 Designers' Blvd., and Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center.



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PHILIPPINE BATTLE CALENDAR:

	WEEKLY FINALS	REGIONAL FINALS
Cebu	Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23	Oct. 8
Davao	Aug. 12, 19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Oct. 15
Baguio	Aug. 19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Oct. 7	Oct. 22
Manila	Aug. 5, 12,19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Oct. 7, 14	Oct. 27

PRIZES

Weekly		- P 20,000
Regional Finals		- P 100,000
Grand National Finals	- 1st Prize	- P 500,000
	- 2nd Prize	- P 300,000
	- 3rd Prize	- P 200,000

GRAND NATIONAL FINALS AT THE ALIW THEATER - OCT. 29

Ernest Santiago opens another. . .

From page D1

Only over 7,000 sq m, it actually looks more vast than that. Ernest has three pavilions scattered on the grounds—reception lobby, kitchen and dining. The reception lobby is inspired by Bali architecture, with unique innovations only a restless mind like Ernest's could think of.

What's breathtaking is what lies beyond. The property slopes down to a manmade lake that Ernest has filled with giant lotus. The whole scene is like a Monet painting. Imagine it bathed in sunlight at the height of summer or faintly curtained with drizzle during the rainy season. Jutting out onto the lake is a wood platform and nearby is a gazebo. Ernest planted coconut trees, bamboo, ferns and other trees all around. The place looks lush, natural, even wild, not manicured at all.

It's impressive how Ernest can transform this relatively small property. He didn't have to spend a million. His resources are limited, but his mind isn't, and his taste doesn't cease to evolve. People out there with lots of fortune and so little taste can learn a thing or two from him. We've seen enough ostentatious developments.

Ernest has always been known for his wild imagination, even as a foremost fashion designer in the '70s and '80s. He was one to experiment with materials and silhouettes—an expertise that endeared him to clients ranging from Chito Madrigal Collantes to Imee Marcos. Apparently Ernest has outgrown fashion design. The past decade, Ernest has gained a select clientele for landscape and interior design.

Ernest cannot be pigeonholed. He's an artist. He even got acclaim as a stage actor in Gilda Cordero Fernando's landmark production of "Aswang." Unlike a dilettante, however, Ernest masters whatever it is he loves to do and such commitment yields fine results.

Give him a garden or a house and he can weave a good design. Give him ingredients and he can whip up a good meal. That Sunday, Ernest prepared *pako* salad with *kesong puti*, Lucban *longganisa* on a stick (with vinegar, garlic sauce), spareribs *adobo*, pork *binagoongan* and chicken curry, and Laguna delicacies for dessert.

Ernest calls his place "Kilib" (meaning hidden, a cul de sac). It's been there for only two months. Only a few people have gone there, like Gilda and her friends, Shangri-La's head Tom Zita and the Tantocos. Joining us were Glenna Aquino, Cora Relova (who's promoting her birthplace Pila, Laguna, as a culture destination), Bonjin Bolinao and Julie de Joya. It's not open to walk-in diners yet, only to special groups or functions with advanced reservation.

It's called stewardship

At a private Mass last Tuesday, Fr. Tito Caluag gave an insightful homily. He said we don't really own what we have now, whether it's fortune, a corporation or a country. We are only stewards of what we have—we're safekeeping it for the future generation. If only government officials and others in positions of privilege and power lived by this principle of stewardship, the Philippines wouldn't be such a mess. Indeed, if only world leaders followed it, the world wouldn't be so ravaged as it is now.

J. Lhuillier bag

At the opening of the Chi Spa at Shangri-La Mactan, we ran into Joanna Lhuillier, the wife of Michel (Amparito's son and Monique's brother), who's getting known for her exquisitely beaded high-fashion evening bags and hip denim totes. Her bags are sold at Shangri-La Mactan and exported worldwide. We were glad to learn from Joanna that her bags are now in 34 fashion outlets in the US. Indeed she's another Lhuillier that's penetrated the international fashion market, the other being her sister-in-law Monique.

The British-born Joanna comes from a family whose name is a byword in furniture worldwide. She's a Maitland-Smith. She studied design and worked in the family furniture firm until she married Michel and the couple settled down in Cebu. A J. Lhuillier bag is a find.

People are glad to hear that after months in the hospital, Imelda Cojuangco is back at home and recovering. Their prayers have been answered.

WHITE is the order of the season, with bold color accents.

Relaxed luxury

FEATURING looks and pieces derived from British artist David Hockney's works, Burberry's current women's collection generously employs primary colors, tastefully mixing brights and whites with bold, updated prints and checks, inspired by preppy English school uniforms.

Girls who love Burberry will adore the spring and summer selection of styles and cuts, with trenches, three-fourth trousers, pea coats and pleats. Loose, lazy tops, frilly blouses and floral-printed skirts offset the more serious flavor of Burberry checks.

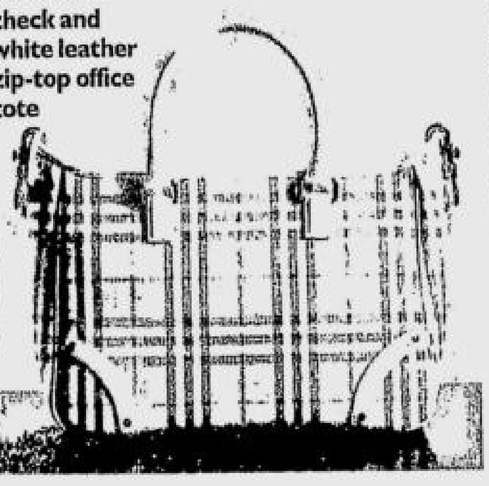
White is the order of the season, and the collection is lovingly accented with printed and solid-colored pieces in magenta, garish green, lilac, traffic yellow, double-decker red and bright blue. A variety of delicious fabrics like gabardine, cashmere, linen, silk and wool furnish the collection with the look of relaxed luxury.

Checks adorn tops and a number of other garments, making for truly interesting possibilities in texture and color-pattern combination. The madras check makes a return, while gingham is magnified to gigantic proportions. Checks are interpreted in a large variety of hues, injecting a strong element of fun into a traditionally toned-down print.

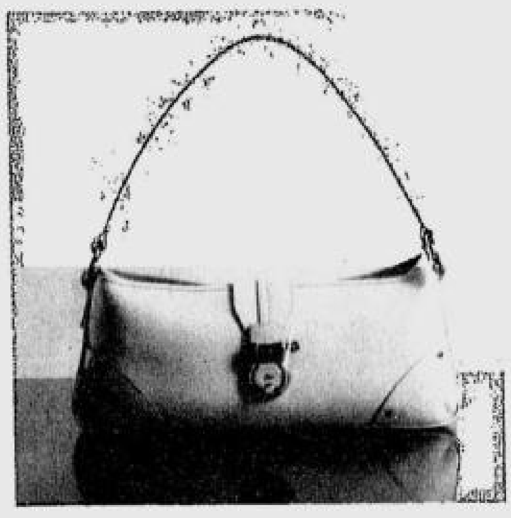
Striped accessories, frilled scarves and brogue-detailed bags with large checks and vibrant colors complete the sassy student look.

Burberry is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. Burberry boutiques are located at Greenbelt 4, Rustan's Makati and Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

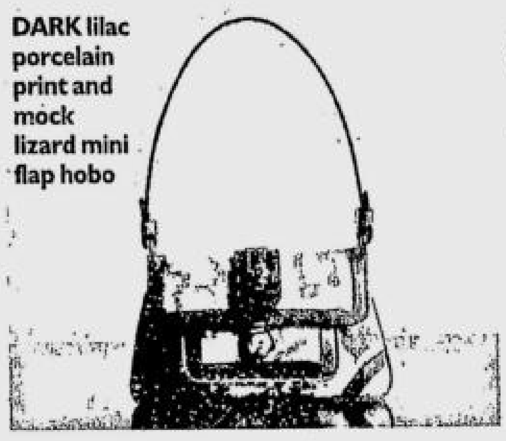
BURBERRY Spring/Summer Collection



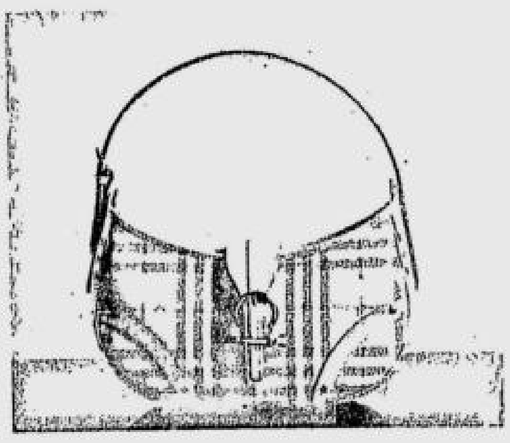
BLUEBELL check and white leather zip-top office tote



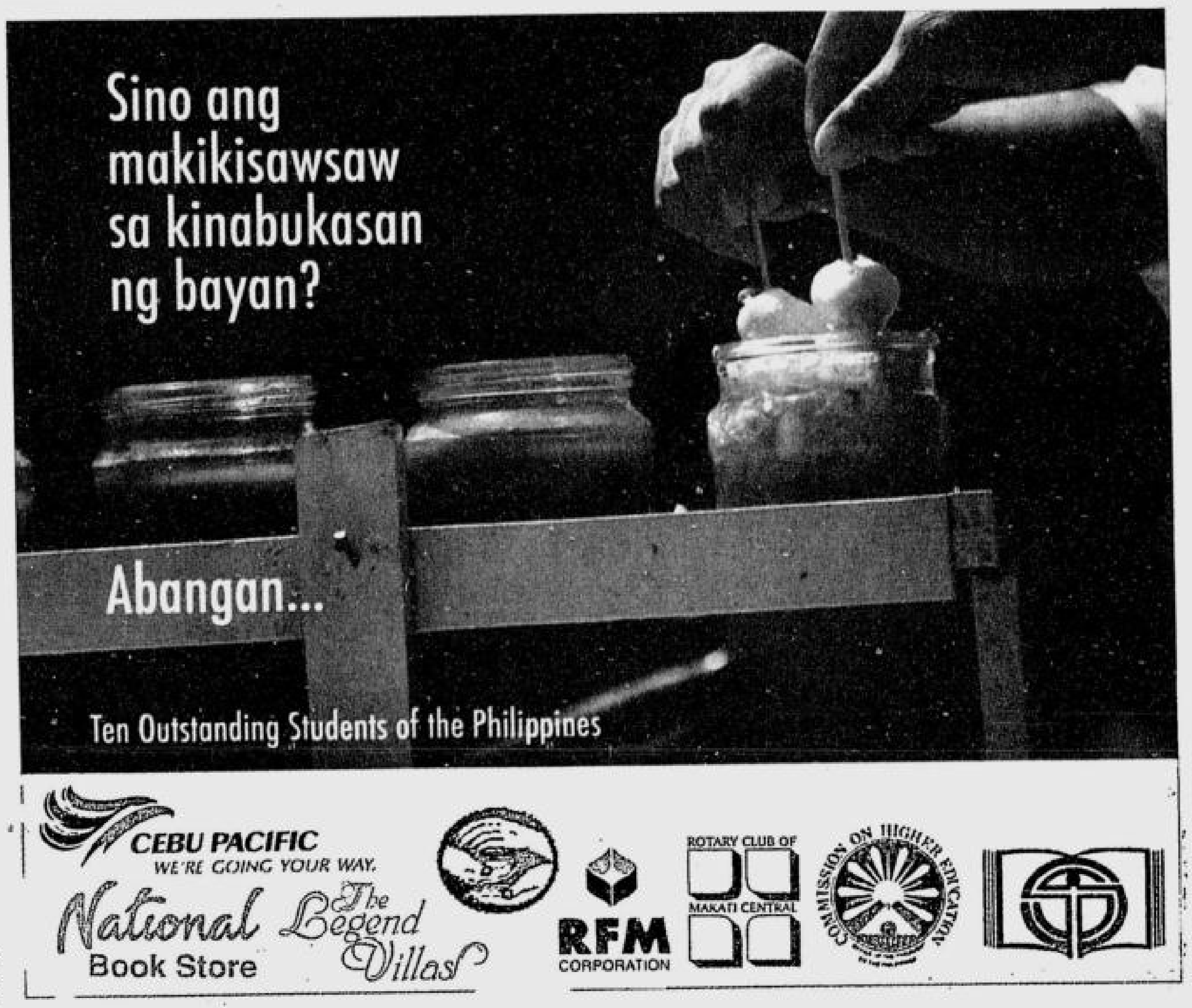
NATURAL grained calf leather zip-top shoulder hobo



DARK lilac porcelain print and mock lizard mini flap hobo



BLUEBELL check and vacchetta zip-top shoulder hobo



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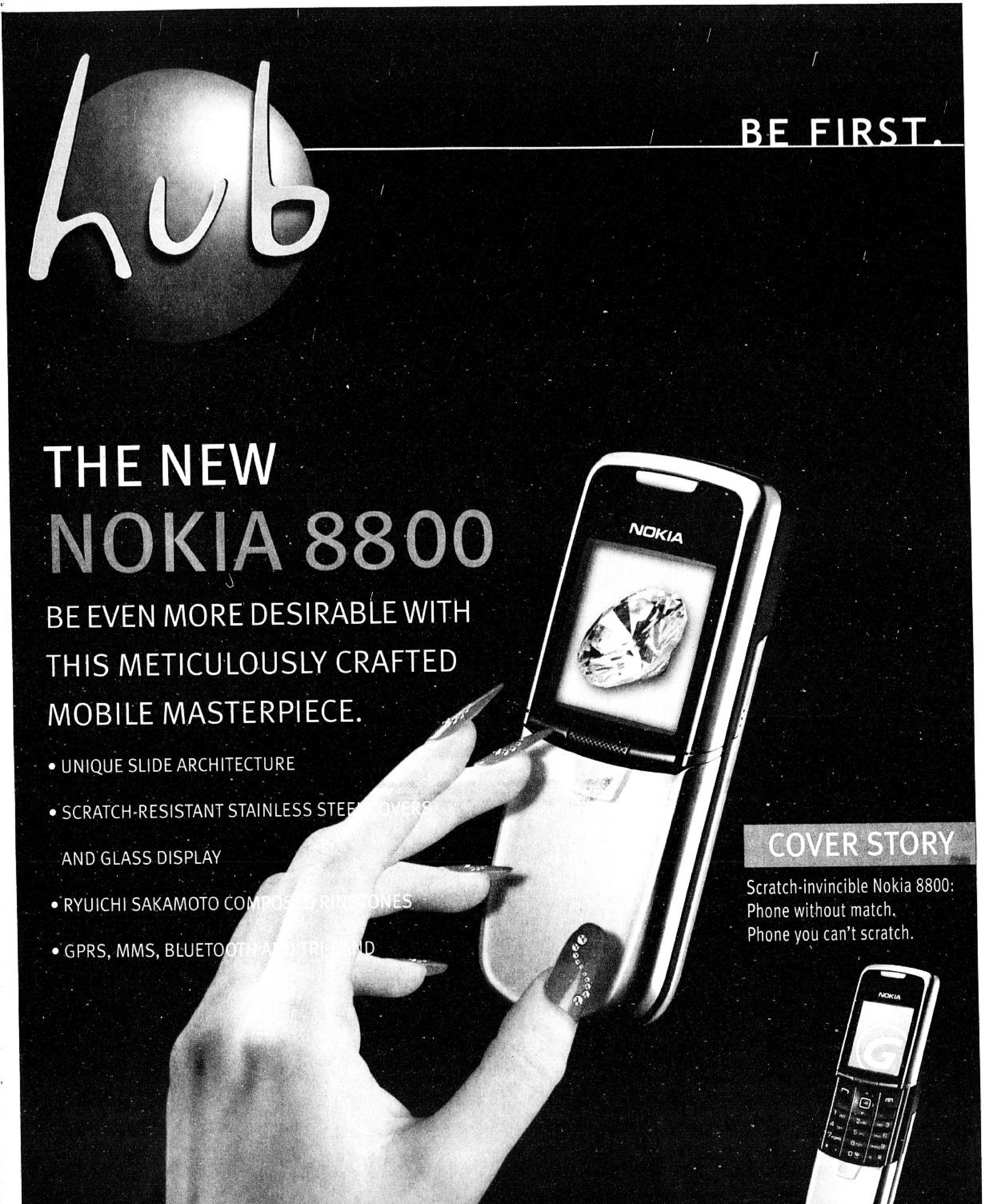
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Mga Kayamanan ng Kasaysayan

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A. Alice Colet Villadolid B. Amando Doronila C. Sheila Coronel

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Salin sa Filipino nina
Roberto T. Añonuevo at Michael M. Coroza
Published by UST Publishing House

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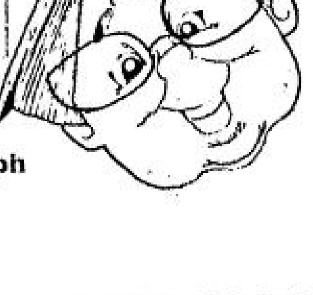

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Grease busters

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

IT seems like yesterday that I was gushing over my favorite personal products for the year. Now here I go again.

It pleases me to know that I have helped many with my personal beauty tips. Since we have five Fridays this month I will start with the basics for this article.

Having oily skin and hair has been the bane of my existence ever since I could remember. They lead to acne, body odor, falling hair and a sloppy appearance. Here are products that have saved my sanity.

Star product

Shu Uemura has replaced its clear cleansing oil Light with the pretty pink Sakura Balancing Cleansing Oil Fresh. Like its predecessor, it is meant for those with oily skin, but it has more oil-blotting power and an addicting fragrance.

I was happy with the clear version, but compared to Shu's other cleansing oils, it lacks in the scent department so it does not sell as well as the rest.

Still cheaper than the Premium A/O Green Tea oil, this cherry blossom scented one will cost (P4,350) for the 450 ml and (P1,450) for the 100 ml. I use this with the rest of Shu's Whitening line to effectively control oil and acne production.

Shu has tied up with designer Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo for a limited-edition pink canvas bag, leather cuff and beaded Sakura ornament for those who make a purchase of P5,000 with the pink cleansing oil among the purchases of course. So those interested may rush to the counters anytime!

Oily face

I have ripped up countless photos because they showed my oily face. Everyone else is fresh looking, but this so-called blessing that has slowed down my aging process by decades makes me look so sloppy.

What has solved my problem?

Makeup

Lancôme Maquicake SPF 17 powder foundation, Shiseido SPF 43 suncare foundation blends into light to medium skintones. For touch-ups I turn to Chanel pressed powder for ultra-matte luminous skin that looks perfect and T. Le Clerc Starbox, which combines the economical benefit of loose powder with the convenience of pressed powder. The pretty royal-purple powder case has silver stars, a heavy duty puff and a handy mirror on the lid so you can refill the case when you run out and are sure it is secure from spilling.

Skincare

Lancôme Pure Focus face wash and toner, Awake Clay Wash and Exfolizer, Mario Badescu enzyme cleansing wash and Special Cucumber lotion/toner.

Oily skin moisturizers: For daytime, my sunblock is also my oily skin moisturizer. My hands-down favorites are VMV Armada Sport SPF 70, Awake SPF 47, Lancôme SPF 50 and Shiseido SPF 30, which gives a matte finish and keeps me looking fresh all day. Being water-resistant, cleansing oils remove every last bit of oil. Nighttime air-conditioning can dehydrate the oiliest of skin, but we all know that the slightest emollient will cause us to break out.

I have found that we can achieve that glow and silky feel without risking blemishes through gel moisturizers such as Awake Sebum Reset, L'Occitane Lavender Face Gel Cream and NeoStrata 15 PHA Bionic Lotion, which exfoliate as well as hydrate to make sure there is nothing there to clog your pores.

Oily acne-prone areas: This pertains to the chest, shoulders and back area which has huge oil glands, which when mixed with sweat, causes breakout eruptions.

VMV's Id line has come up with an anti-sweat acne gel treatment which one applies after cleansing. It kills the bacteria that serve as a hearty buffet for acne to feed on.

I have also become a fanatic for Body scrubs with Bleach at Belo because aside from exfoliating the rough areas the bleaching solution makes the zits shrivel up and peel off.

Greasy hair

The main culprit for smelly heads and a lot of falling hair. I noticed that for a very humid tropical country there are just very little products available out here to treat this menace!

Everyone sends me ultra-moisturizing shampoos or those that promise stick straight hair, which is everyone's obsession of late. I am sure I am not alone here!

My staple shampoos: Carita Purifying shampoo is expensive but gives my hair sheen, body and bounce. It eliminates odor and replaces it with a clean scent that reminds me of Mugler Cologne that lasts.

Other staples: The Body Shop Nettle (P425), Neutrogena anti-residue (P268) and St. Ives Clarifying (P198). Conditioner should not be forgotten but stir it clear of the scalp area and limit it to the hair ends only.

E-mail kinnysalas@yahoo.com

LIMITED-EDITION Sakura Bag, Cuff and Ornament for Shu Uemura by Yvonne Quisumbing- Romulo

STARBOX by T.Le Clerc

SHU UEMURA Sakura Balancing Cleansing Oil Fresh

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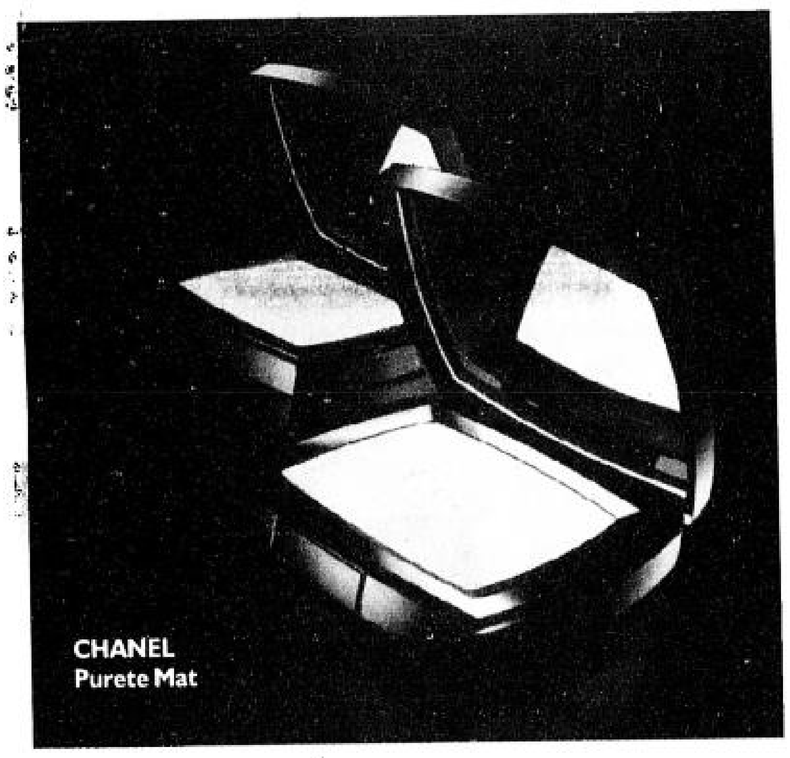
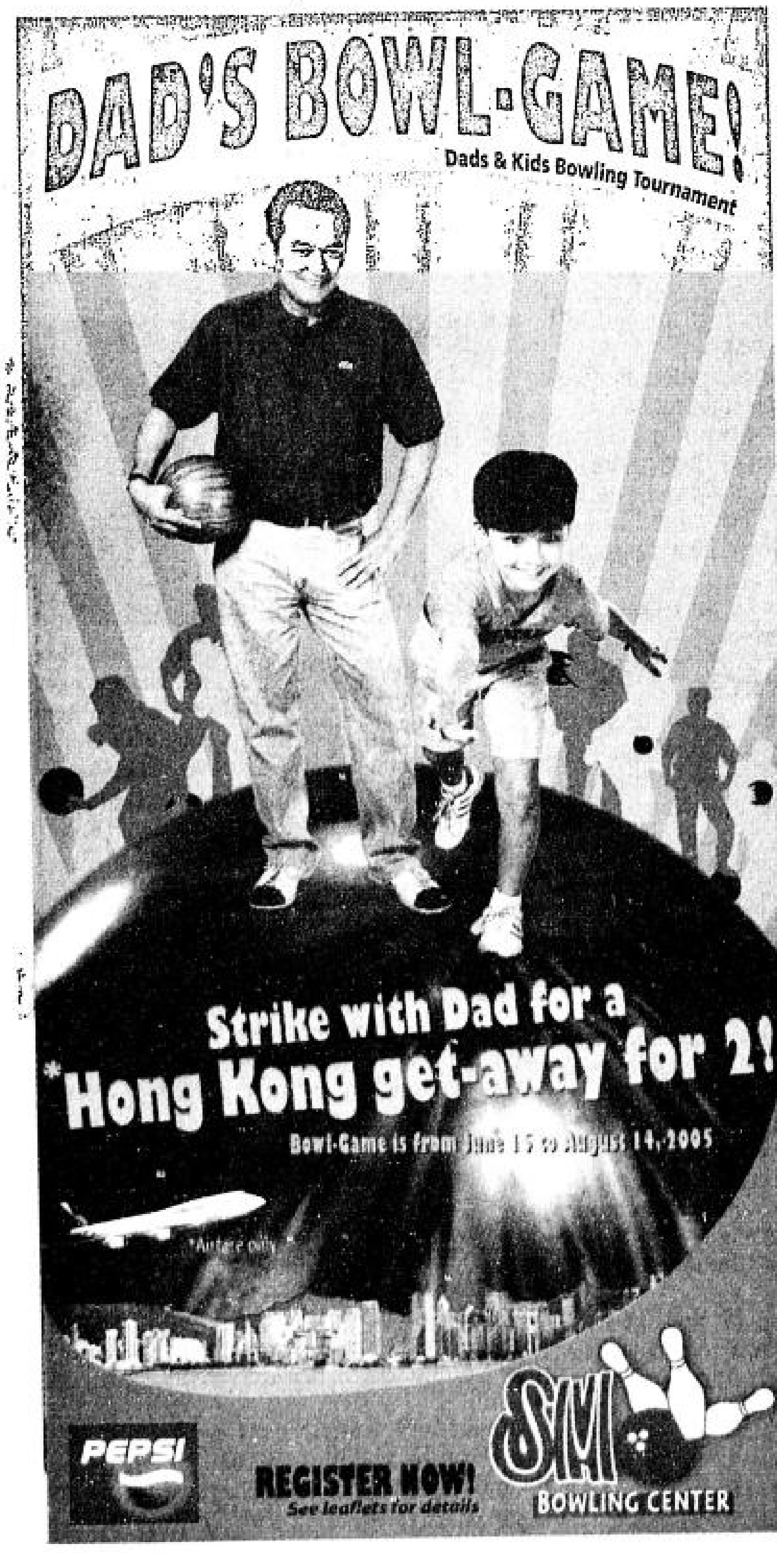
SHU UEMURA SKIN PURIFIER

LANCÔME Tonique Contole Purifying Toner with Mattifying Powder

CARITA Purifying Radiance Shampoo



CHANEL Purete Mat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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

BUSINESSMAN Patrick Jacinto, TV's body beautiful and INQUIRER lifesyle columnist Cory Quirino, Rustans Marketing Corp. and Stores Specialists Inc.'s top lady Nedy Tantoco and DJ Lopez

MADAME Imelda Marcos and Prince Kiko Hohen Lohe

GEORGE slipping the four-carat engagement ring on his fiancee's finger

THE HAPPILY engaged couple. Dr. George Sarakinis and Becky Garcia

THE GANG. Resty Vergara, Sonny Tanchanco, world traveller Mayenne Carmona, John Gaddi and top interior designer Cocoy Cordoba

MEZZE'S hotshot Bobong Velez, southern beauty Maricor Nieto and top cardiologist Randy Francisco

DON ADO Escudero of the popular Villa Escudero, ulra-glam Consul Mellie Romero A. with husband, business magnate Louie Ablaza

HEADTURNER Kathy Park, Makati's first lady Dr. Elenita Binay, Dr. Anastacios Sarakinis, Gov. Chavit Singson, Che Tiongson and Madame Urania Sarakinis

STYLISH Baby Fernando, Bergamo's Mel Meer, and popular couple Nene and Jun Leonor

LINDA Legaspi Rosal and daughter Michaela with Consul General of Georgia to the Philippines and his wife at the gala dinner

CENTURY Era Linguists/Translators includes Jeanne Robinson of Franco, Anna Kerrinnacu of Russia and Nicole Maitland of Spain and London

MADAME Maria Chircu and daughter Corina of Chricu Prodimpex Company, Bucharest, Romania's largest industrial complex

They could have danced all night

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

FABULOUS ambiance, excellent dinner menu, superb wines (Sauvignon Blanc and Albali Reserve), perfect music to put you in a romantic mood, overflowing Champagne (Moet & Chandon & Lanson)—the perfect ingredients for a truly memorable engagement party for German-Greek businessman Dr. **George Sarakinis** and ballroom diva **Becky Garcia.**

The two were a couple madly in love when they welcomed their pals to their formal engagement party.

Entering the fantastic Le Soufflé Wine Bar and Resto at the Rockwell club was a treat. We were welcomed by chilled champagne in an elegant setting, transformed by top interior designer **Cocoy Cordoba**, who used red throughout the room, including the roses surrounded by gold beaded candle holders flown in from Bali.

After all the hellos and kisses, cool singer **Arthur Maningat** and his band belted out romantic songs.

Tall, dashing George, handsome in a tux, was beside his bride-to-be, looking fab and radiant in a Valentino-inspired red flowing chiffon gown by **Oskar Peralta.**

Chefs of chefs, the brilliant **Jessie Sincioco**, outdid herself. Each course came with a song memorable for the couple. The *piece de resistance* was the "Princess Becky dessert." It had George singing the song "Love Me Tender."

The biggest surprise was that George could sing like a pro. We discovered later that he was a soloist for a rock band in Germany, which will be coming to play to Manille for the wedding in December.

The short program was emceed by Becky's pal, our *palangga*, **Donnie Ramirez.**

The moment arrived when George presented his gal with a four-carat engagement ring, overwhelming Becky so much she amusingly said, "I will not refuse it."

Applauding with the 300 or so guests were George's parents who jetted in from Germany for this romantic night. After all, George is the only child of Dr. **Anastacios** and **Urania Sarakinis**, dahlings.

At the head table were the prospective principal sponsors for the wedding from Greece and Manille, such as Gov. **Chavit Singson**, with his stunningly gorgeous **Che Tiongson**; Madame **Imelda Romualdez Marcos**; Dr. **Elenita Binay**; Rustan's Marketing Corp. president **Nedy Tantoco**; and **Michel** and **Amparito Lhuillier**, who jetted from Cebu just for the occasion, before they flew off to Paris.

Other hotshots were Consul **Ed Ferreira**; construction magnate **Philip Cruz** and gorgeous **Ching Cruz**; lawyer **Toto Ferrer** and his love, **Cristine Foxas F.**; and Dr. **Gunter** and his sultry wife, **Joanne Matschuck.**

The party was also a belated birthday party for Becky, who was given a birthday cake by Le Soufflé.

Pinoy pride in Switzerland

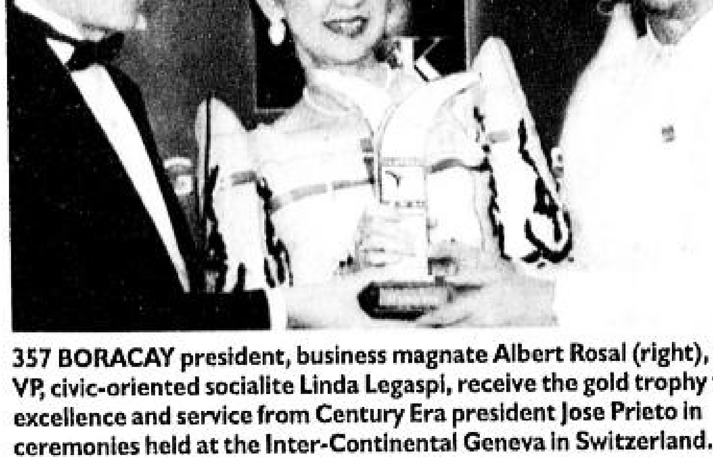
Would you believe, dahlings, that a small *trés* chic boutique resort hotel in Boracay caught world attention and received an international award?

The low-profile but super-in-demand 357 Boracay was recognized by the prestigious Century International Era Awards of Geneva, no less. Former Rotary president **Alberto "Dong" Rosal**, and fashionable socialite **Linda Legaspi** received the award.

It was spring in Switzerland when the Rosal couple received the award from Century Era president, **Jose E. Prieto.** The award drew thunderous applause from the chi-chi crowd. The Rosals proudly wore the national costume designed by **Rene Salud.**

"You can't imagine the feeling we had being one of the awardees and sharing the international distinction of quality and excellence with others, like members of the diplomatic corps and top business executives all over the world. Century Era, as of last count, has almost a hundred members spanning the globe," Rosal said.

The key to their success is service, he explained.



357 BORACAY president, business magnate Albert Rosal (right), and VP, civic-oriented socialite Linda Legaspi, receive the gold trophy for excellence and service from Century Era president Jose Prieto in ceremonies held at the Inter-Continental Geneva in Switzerland.

Wedding vows renewed

Where has **Nena del Rosario** been all along? Apparently, Nena was away for two and a half months in the United States to attend the, take note, *palanggas*, the second wedding celebration of her eldest granddaughter, **Mia**, and her Toronto-based hubby, architect **Iñaki Villarin.**

The young couple first married in a *trés* simple ceremony years ago in Canada. So they decided to renew their vows on their 10th anniversary.

It was great seeing their children, **Noa**, who was the flower girl, and son, **Lukes**, the ring bearer, walk down the aisle.

Mia looked radiant in a vintage blue lace, serpentina gown. Iñaki was in his tux.

The ceremony, held at St. Mels Chapel in Burbank, had as matron of honor, Mia's sister **Liana Amador**, who chose a red three-tiered chiffon dress, matching her bouquet of red American Beauty.

"When the choir started to sing, as Mia walked down the aisle, she could not hold back her tears, and it was great, how the couple and their two kids looked so much in love, after 10 years together," said the proud mom, Nena.

A fun reception followed at the Holiday Inn in Burbank. Like most US weddings, there was dancing till you dropped after cocktails and the sumptuous buffet, including a five-layered wedding cake.

In the end, the guests dragged themselves home with a take-home bottle of California wine.

Nena's visit included a tour of Las Vegas in the new Paris-Paris Hotel, as the VIP guest of her *palangga* nephew, **Santi Majam.**

Mia is teaching special children in Aurora Heights in Westlake, while her husband designs buildings in an architectural firm in Westhills.

Come June when classes close in the US, Del Rosario's children will be jetting back to Manille. Yes, it's their turn to spend time with mom.

IRENE Martel Francisco

GLO Alcala

SHALL we dance? Jessie Panelo, Marvie Cojuangco Yulo, Chona Mercado, lawyer Chel Katigbak, Nanette Mendoza and Tonet Lagdameo

BMW'S Ditas and Lito German

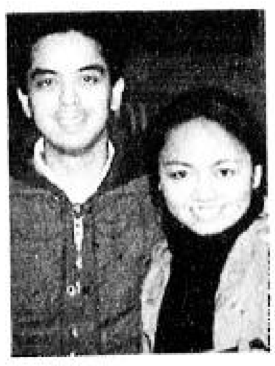
HOT international wine connoisseur Tita Trillo of Titania Wine with international businessman Laurence Bruno

JUN VALENTON and his statuesque, beautiful wife, Isa V.

AFTER 10 years of togetherness, Mia and Iñaki Villarin say their I dos with their children Noa as flower girl and Lukes as ring bearer.

NENA del Rosario's grandson Anjo after the ceremony at St. Mels Chapel in Burbank, California

AT THE despedida for Nena del Rosario in Beverly Hills. Mia, Nena, Liana and Martin Amador; (back) Iñaki and Robin



MUFFIN and Gina del Rosario at the train station in Boston

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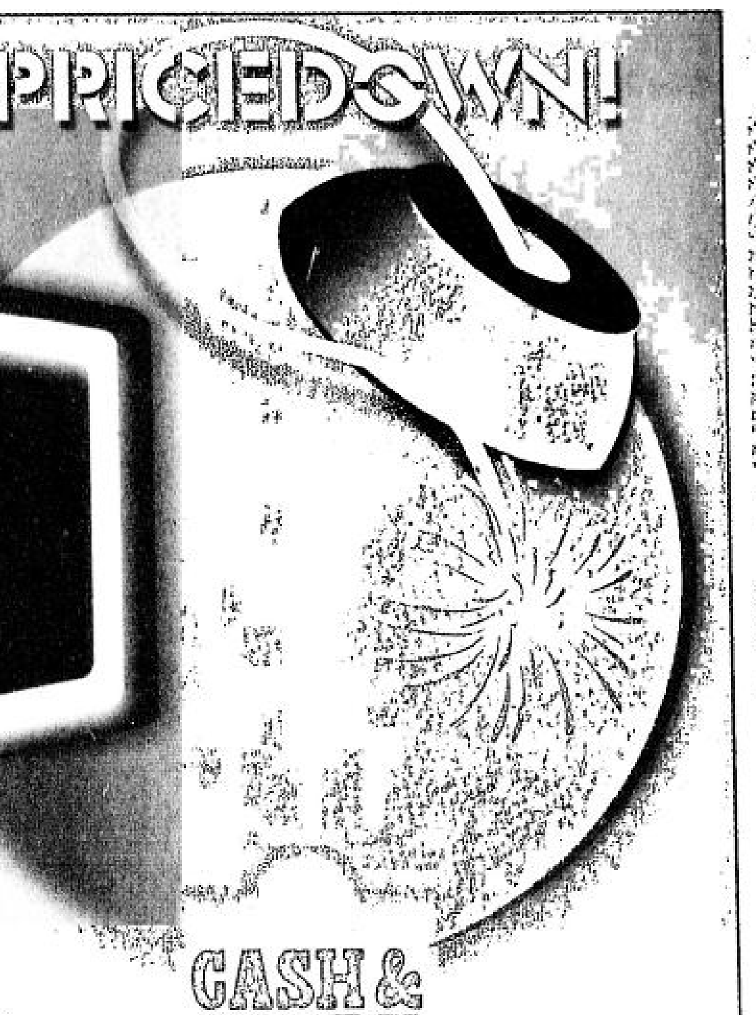

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Buendia cor South Superhighway
Tels. 844-7386 • 843-7382 • 843-3469
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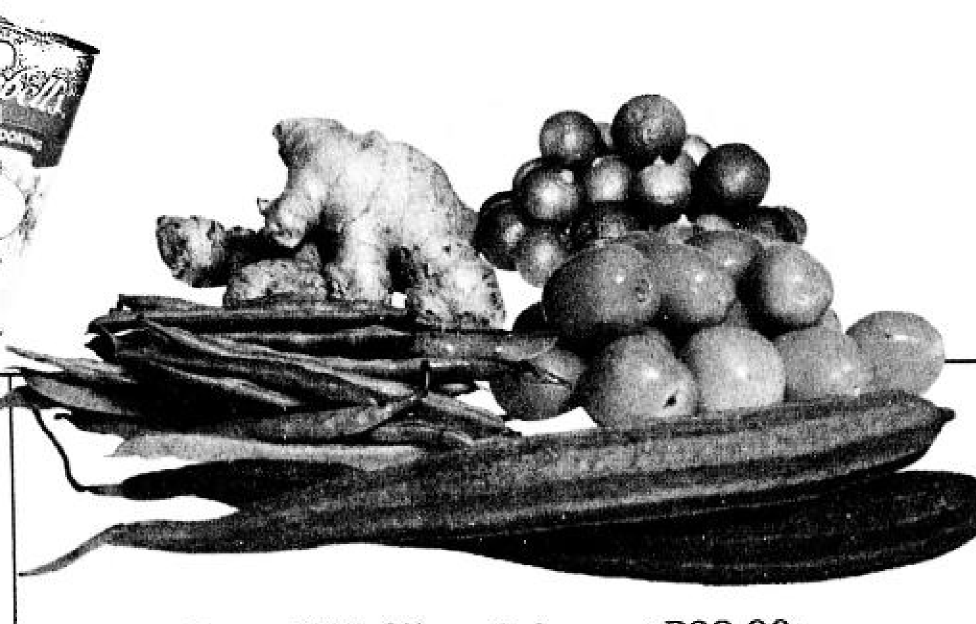
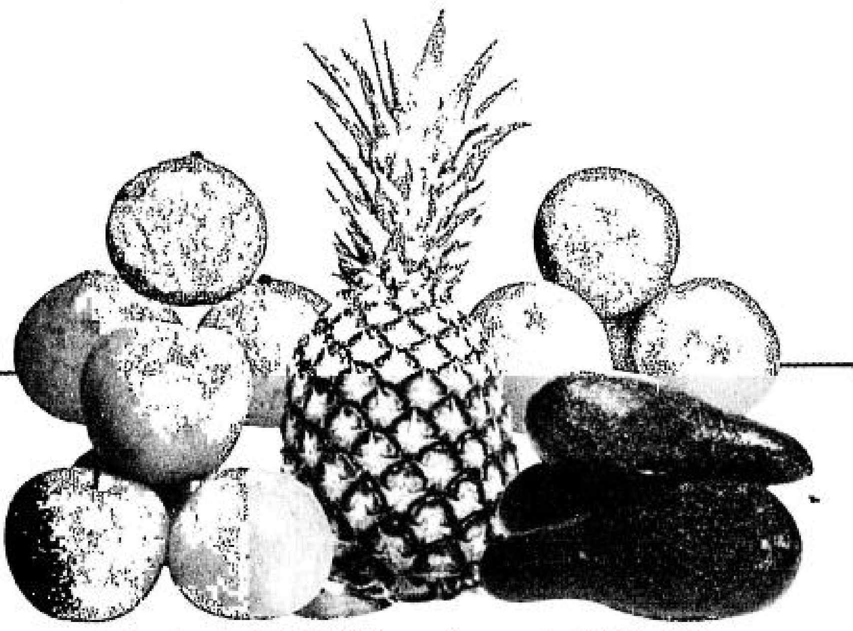
Campbell's
Cream of Mushroom USA
304.8g ₱36.50/can
737.1g ₱100.50/can



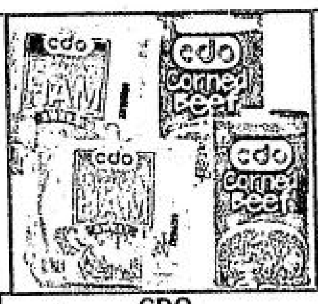
Ginger ₱17.85/kg • Calamansi ₱28.90/kg
• Native Tomato ₱23.10/kg • Beans ₱29.40/kg
• Patola ₱17.85/kg



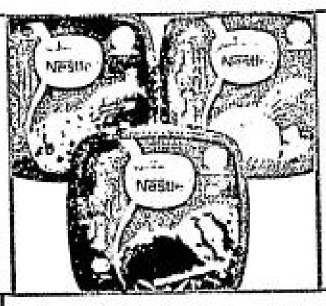
Gala Apple ₱59.90/kg • Avocado ₱28.40/kg
• Pineapple Medium ₱21.00/kg • Valencia Orange ₱73.50/kg
• Santol Bangkok ₱36.75/kg

Nescafe
Classic 100g ₱52.60/pk 25g ₱14.75/pk
50g ₱27.45/pk
Classic Stick 84/2g ₱124.70/pk

Purefoods
Chunkee Corned Beef 360g ₱48.45/can
Chick N' Tasty Regular 1k ₱98.00/bag



CDO
Coned Beef 150g ₱19.35/can
175g ₱22.25/can
Regular Sweet Ham 250g ₱44.85/pk
500g ₱88.50/pk



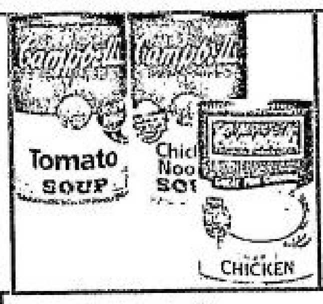
Nestle Ice Cream
Back 2 Back, Choco & Double Dutch, Mango & Ube, Cookies & Cream, Rocky Road 1.5L ₱197.50/tub

Mama Sita's
Oyster Sauce 156g ₱24.75/bot
405g ₱45.50/bot 765g ₱78.40/bot

One Tea
Green Tea, Yellow Tea, Red Tea 50pcs ₱14.25/box
Quick Chow
Quickie Cup Mami Chicken, Molo, Seafood, La Paz Batchoy, Beef Nilaga, Beef Nilaga Hot
50g ₱10.50/cup

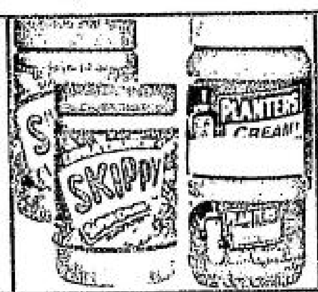
Marca Leon
Vegetable Oil
4L ₱210.50/jug 2L ₱107.60/jug
1L ₱60.10/bot 500ml ₱32.40/bot

Silver Swan
Soy Sauce
1000ml ₱22.95/bot 200ml ₱4.30/pouch
Sukang Puti
1000ml ₱20.60/bot 200ml ₱3.20/pouch



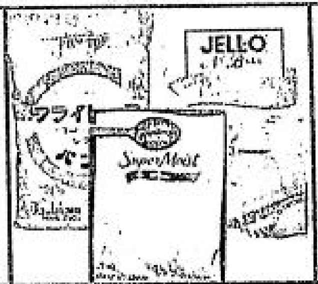
Campbell's
Cream of Chicken USA, Chicken Noodle USA
304.8g ₱36.50/can
Tomato Soup USA 304.8g ₱36.20/can

Swanson
Chicken Broth 1.4L ₱145.50/can
Cock
Sesame Oil 375g ₱83.50/bot
3L ₱400.50/bot

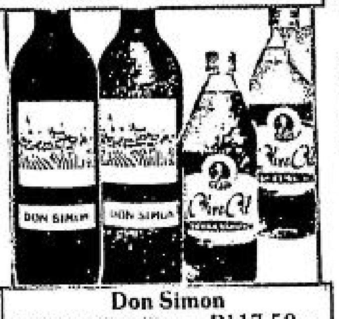


Skippy
Peanut Butter Creamy, Super Chunk
793.8g ₱195.50/bot
Planters
Peanut Butter Creamy, Crunchy
340.2g ₱74.50/bot 510.3g ₱100.50/bot

Cheetos
Crunchy, Crunchy Flamin' Hot
226.8g ₱83.80/pk
Corn Puffs, Corn Puffs Twisted
255.1g ₱88.20/pk



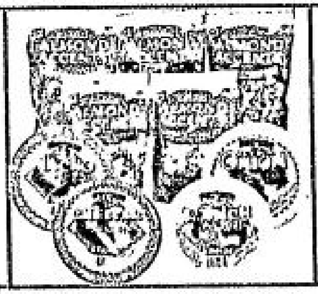
Fry Top Bread Crumbs
1kg ₱50.50/pk
Jell-O Double Layer Lemon Cake Stk
744g ₱145.00/pk
Betty Crocker Supermoist Cake Mix White
[illegible] ₱82.00/box



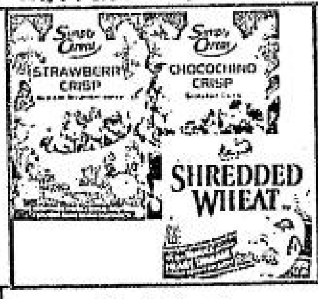
Don Simon
Red Wine, White Wine 1Ltr ₱117.50/bot
Doña Elena
Pure Olive Oil 1L ₱270.00/bot
Extra Virgin Olive Oil 1L ₱280.00/bot

Nabisco
Chips Ahoy
340.2g ₱108.50/pk 453.6g ₱130.50/pk
Chips Ahoy Peanut Butter
425.3g ₱150.50/pk

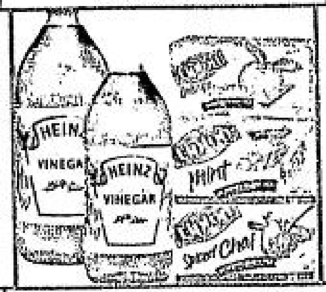
Welch's
Grape Juice Drink 375ml ₱22.00/can
Old Orchard
Cranberry Juice, Organic Apple Juice
1.9L ₱177.00/bot



Sunkist Almond Accents Bacon Cheddar, Honey Roasted, Ranch Style, Italian Parmesan, Roasted Garlic Ceasar 141.8g ₱143.00/pk
Old Fashioned Cheese Dip Cheese & Salsa 226.8g ₱68.50/pk Nacho, Ranch, French Onion, Cheddar Cheese 198g ₱68.50/tub



Simply Cereal
Strawberry, ChocoChino 450g ₱127.50/box
Post
Shredded Wheat Big Biscuit 283.5g ₱149.00/box

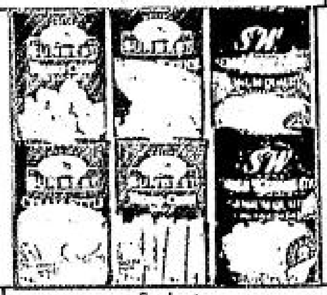


Lipton Tea Bag
Mint, Orange Spice, Spiced Chai 20's ₱110.50/box
Heinz
Apple Cider Vinegar
450ml ₱62.50/bot 950ml ₱105.50/bot

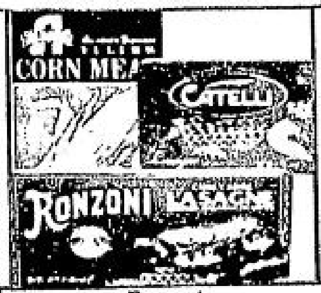
ReaLemon
Lemon Juice 280ml ₱60.50/bot
Kean
Grape Fruit, Five Fruit Cocktail Juice
1L ₱49.50/btl

Wonderful Copenhagen
Baked w/ Butter Cookies 450g ₱150.50/can
Danish Butter Cookies 454g ₱160.50/can
Bourbon Elise
Wafer Small 51g ₱45.50/box

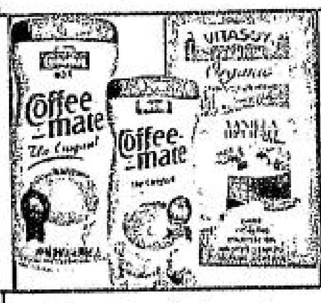
Falcon's Valley
Fruit Cocktail 822g ₱60.80/can
Peach Halves 825g ₱58.90/can
S&W
Cranberry Sauce Jellied 453.6g ₱35.50/can



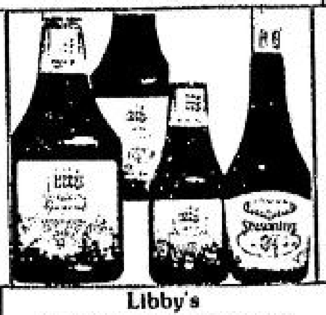
Sunbest
Whole Kernel Corn, Cream Style Corn 425g ₱24.50/can
Young Corn Cuts & Bits 425g ₱21.80/can
Young Corn Whole 425g ₱23.75/can
S&W
Whole Kernel Corn 432g ₱25.50/can
Cream Style Corn 418g ₱25.50/can



Ronzoni
Lasagne 453.6g ₱75.50/box
Catelli Bistro
Low Fat, Low Sodium Lasagne 500g ₱82.50/box
Albers
Yellow Corn Meal 567g ₱86.50/box



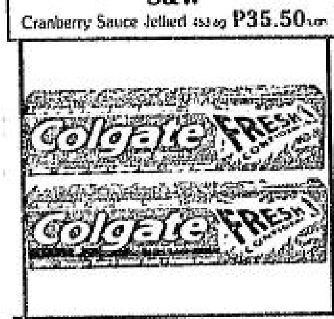
Carnation Coffeemate
311.8g ₱90.50/bot 453.6g ₱125.50/bot
Vitasoy Organic
Calci-Plus, Vanilla Delight 1L ₱92.00/tetra



Libby's
Tomato Ketchup 396.9g ₱53.50/bot
680.4g ₱80.50/bot 1.07g ₱120.50/bot
Maggi Seasoning
800ml ₱381.00/bot

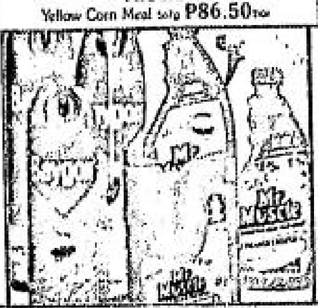
French's Classic Mustard Squeeze [illegible] ₱76.00/bot
Bold & Spicy Brown 340.2g ₱38.50/bot
Sweet & Zesty 340.2g ₱111.00/bot
Grey Poupon Mustard Dijon, Country Mustard
226.8g ₱139.50/bot 800ml ₱381.00/bot
Dijon Mustard Squeeze, Deli Mustard Squeeze
[illegible] ₱119.00/bot

Welch's
Grape Jam, Grape Jelly 907.2g ₱93.50/bot
Molinera
Hazelnut Spread
Choco. Two Flavors 400g ₱103.40/bot

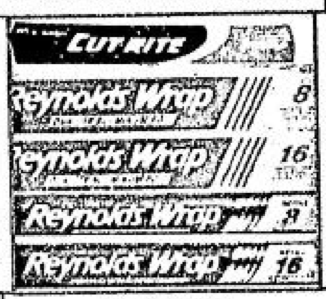


Colgate
Fresh Confidence Green
100ml ₱42.10/tube
50ml ₱26.50/tube 25ml ₱14.50/tube

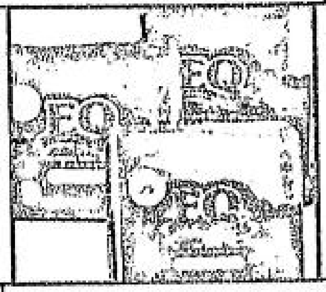
Sanicare
Bathroom Tissue 600's 9rolls ₱118.30/bag
Jade
Bathroom Tissue 300's 48rolls ₱304.70/bag
Table Napkin Tissue Folded 330's ₱76.25/bag



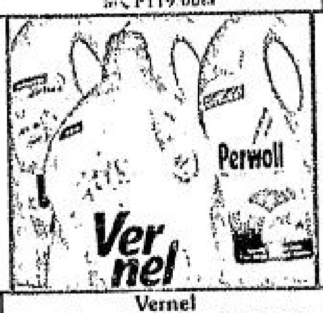
Baygon
Aero Green, Total Insect Killer 600g ₱192.25/can
Cockroach Killer 600g ₱197.50/can
Mr. Muscle
Duct Mold & Mildew Primary
Kitchen Cleaner Primary 500ml ₱86.35/pc
Drain Declogger 500ml ₱68.20/pc



Reynolds Wrap
Standard 8m ₱63.70/box Refill 8m ₱52.40/roll
Standard 16m ₱117.00/box Refill 16m ₱104.40/roll
Cut-Rite
15m ₱44.60/box

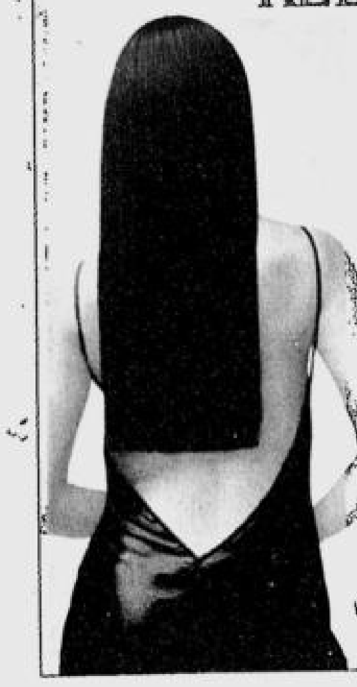


EQ Basic Diapers
Big Pack Small 36's, Medium 32's, Large 28's, XL 24's
₱187.50/bag



Vernel
Fabric Softener (All Variants) 4L ₱299.00/bag
2L ₱178.00/bag
Perwoll
Mild Liquid Detergent 4L ₱317.50/bag
2L ₱192.80/bag

Lysol
Disinfectant Spray Original, Spring Waterfalls, Country Scent, Crisp Linen 170g ₱108.60/can
340g ₱181.80/can
Pine Action 500ml ₱138.50/can
Neutra Air Pure Air, Fresh Water 340ml ₱135.50/can



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CAROLINA
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Avon introduces the second fragrance in its trilogy of collectible romance scents called Today.Tomorrow.Always. This delicate, romantic and seductive scent has a sensual floral essence. The bouquet of Golden Raspberry, African Violet and Sunset Amber celebrates love in all its delicacy and splendor.

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**See catalogue for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2773, Series of 2005

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BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

UA&P hosts 1st marketing communications awards

THE UNIVERSITY of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) hosts the first Marketing Communications Effectiveness Awards (MCEA) Night, 6:30 tonight at the Li Seng Giap Auditorium, UA&P campus, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. MCEA is the first and only award in the Philippines that recognizes both the business and societal value of marketing communications campaign. Call 6370912 loc. 342 or e-mail cecarma@uap.edu.ph / cheermae@yahoo.com

GOINGS ON

FAIR. Organic Market is participating in Barangay San Lorenzo's "Sunday Market at Legaspi Park," to be held on July 3, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Residents will be able to enjoy a picnic setting and fun attractions under the trees at the large parking lot on the corners of Legaspi, Salcedo and Herrerra Streets near the Union Church. Call 7294082/ 8109823.

PROGRAM. A Retrouvaille program for married couples will be held on July 8-10 at Saidi Formation House, Antipolo City. Call Fr. Dave Clay at 0918-9020511; Willie and Aleth, 8005902; and Merit and Bernie, 0917-7950682.

CONTEST. High school and college students are invited to join In-jean-uity at Robinsons Malls. Students can display their artistry using the theme Street Art on jeans. Deadline for submission of entries is on July 30. Entry forms are available at information counters of Robinsons malls in Sta. Rosa, Imus, Lipa, Dasmariñas, Angeles and Los Baños. Call 6836355/ 6836100.

MUSICAL. Concert at the Park presents the Ouija Board playing Original Alternative Pinoy Music on July 3 at the Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

BAZAAR. The fourth Korea in Focus and the first Philippine Crafts Fair are ongoing until July 3 in Greenhills Shopping Complex.

SEMINAR. CFS Continental Technology is offering the following seminars: "Warehouse Management" (July 9, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); "Purchasing Management" (July 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); and "Effective People Management (July 22-23, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). Call 8697960, 8232358, 8234825.

COMPETITION. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall will hold the elimination round of Funk Street Dance competition on July 22-Aug. 19. Grand finals will be held in the entertainment center on Aug. 21. Call 6815401.

BRIEFING. British Council Philippines annually holds a briefing for individuals who wish to study and/or visit the UK. Those interested may choose one of the following dates: July 25 or 26 and Aug. 1 or 2. For first-time visitors to the UK, choose one of the following dates: July 27 or 28 and Aug. 3 or 4. All briefings are held 2-5 p.m. at the British Council Philippines' Knowledge Learning Centre, 10/F Taipan Place, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Registration starts on July 11. Call 9141011 to 14.

CONTEST. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation, Inc. will hold a photo contest featuring beautiful Filipinas. Deadline is on July 28. Entries can be submitted to FPPF Secretariat at 7/F, Comfoods Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati. Call 8435341/ 8137420.

PROMO. House of Praise has an ongoing promo until Aug. 31 at all its stores nationwide. For every P250 single receipt worth of products, customers will receive one scratch card and get instant prizes that can be redeemed at the store where the Praise product was bought.

FAIR. The 26th Manila International Book Fair and the 2nd Learning and Information Technology Fair will be held on Aug. 31-Sept. 4 at the World Trade Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Roxas Blvd. Call 8900661/ 8960682.

SALE. Freeway and Ensembles will hold a mid-year sale on July 1-31. Twenty-Two BC has an ongoing sale until July 20.

SYMPOSIUM. Ayala Museum will host "Manila, World Entrepot: 16th-19th Century Exchange of Objects Between Asia, Europe and the Americas" on July 8-10. Registration is ongoing until July 5. Call 7577117 to 21.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

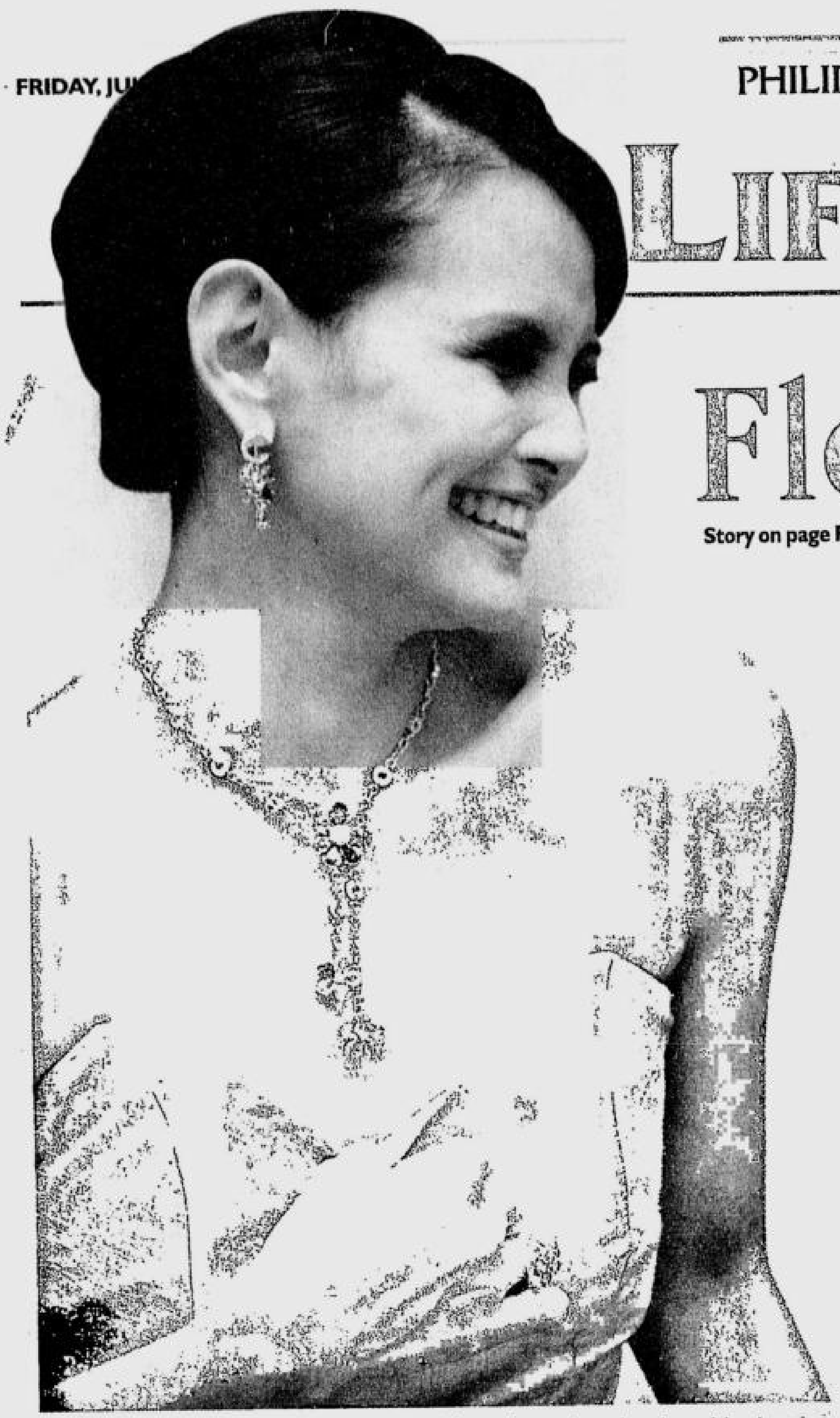
LifeStyle

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Floral Sparkle

Story on page F3



TWEETIE de Leon wears a set of "Flora" necklace, ring and earrings in multi-colored sapphires and pave diamonds set in yellow gold. The necklace with three floral pendants costs US$54,505.

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receive a P2000 gift certificate for
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ETHAN ALLEN

Per DTI_NCR Permit Number A3-495 Series of 2005

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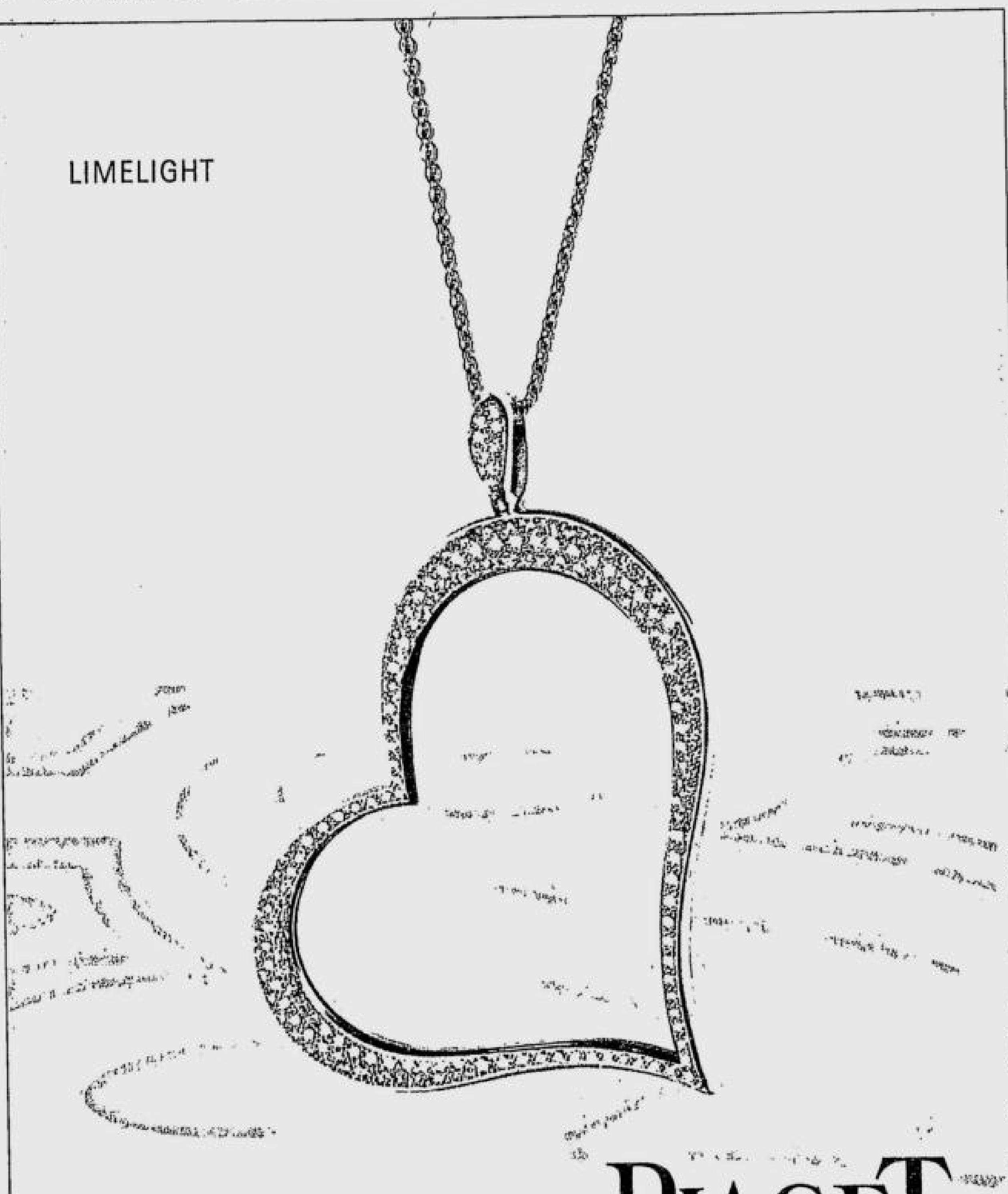

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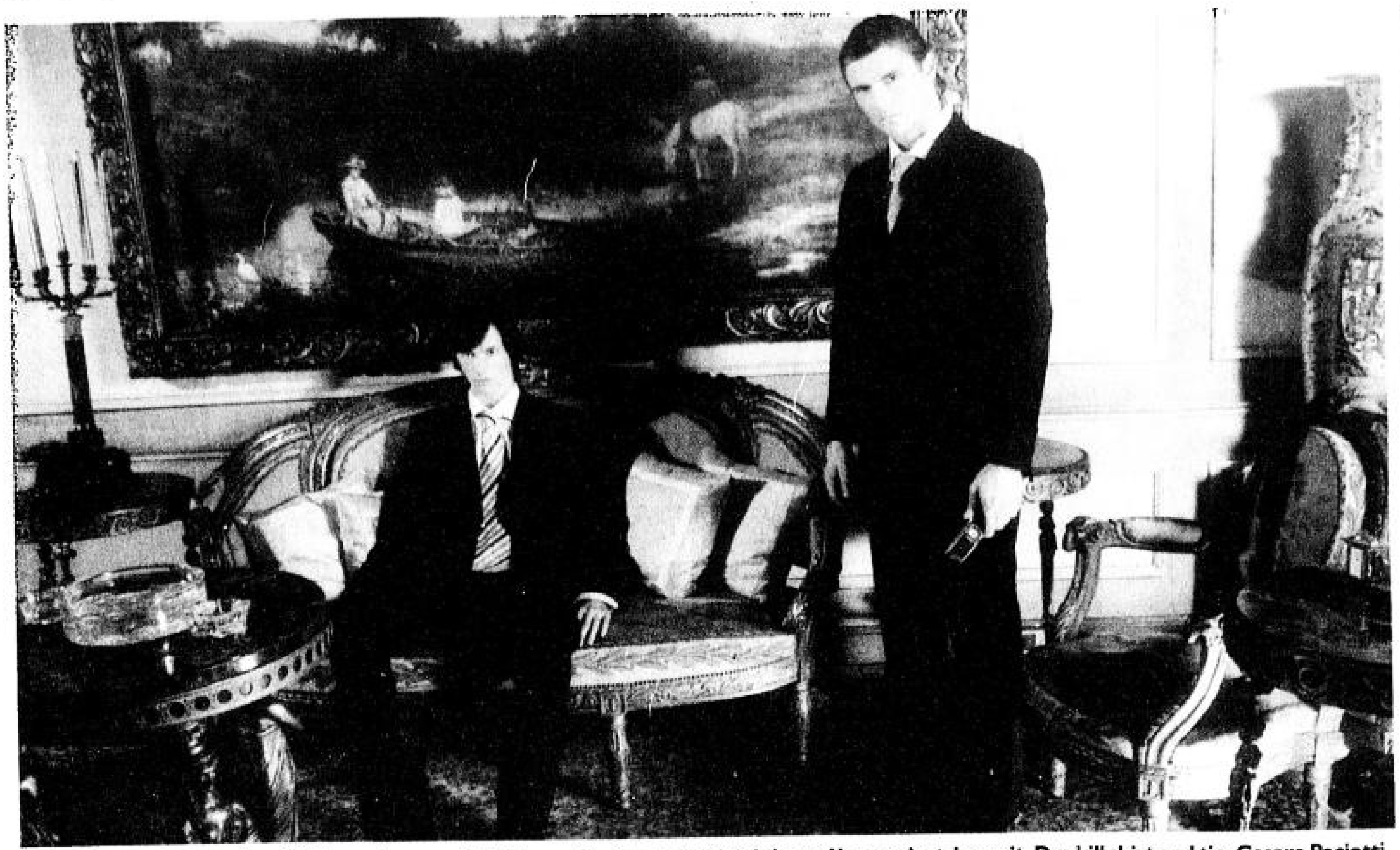
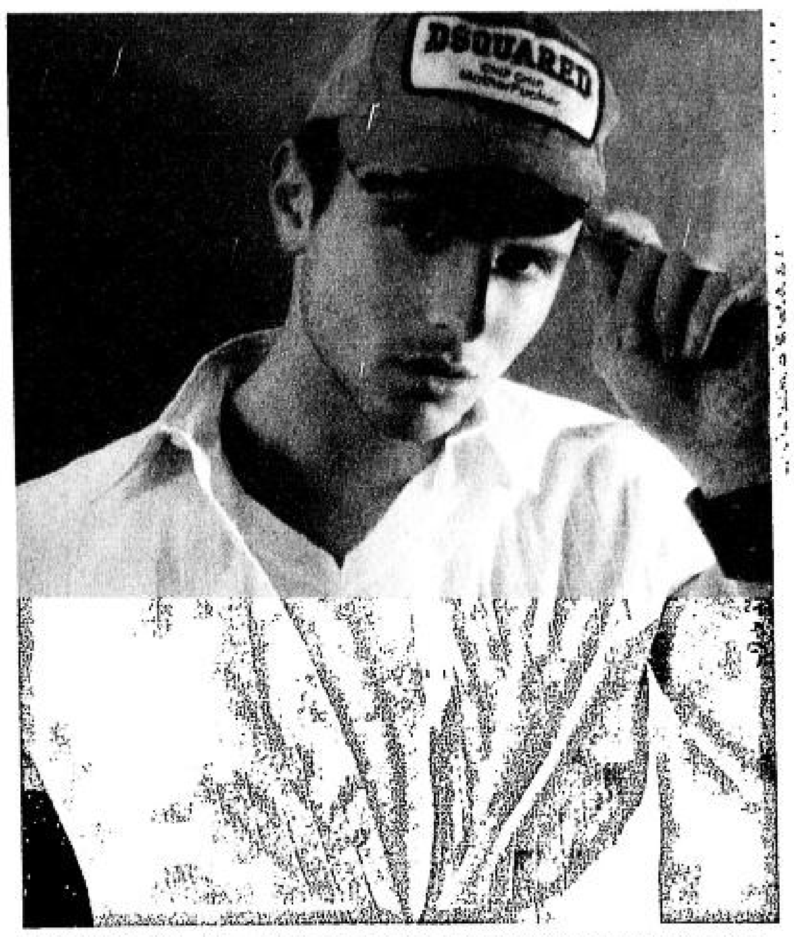


RYKIEL pinstripe suit, Dunhill short, Ermenegildo Zegna tie, Cesare Paciotti shoes; Kenzo pinstripe suit, Dunhill shirt and tie, Cesare Paciotti shoes



DSQUARED2 white shirt and brown leather wristband, Begutta lime green short-sleeved shirt

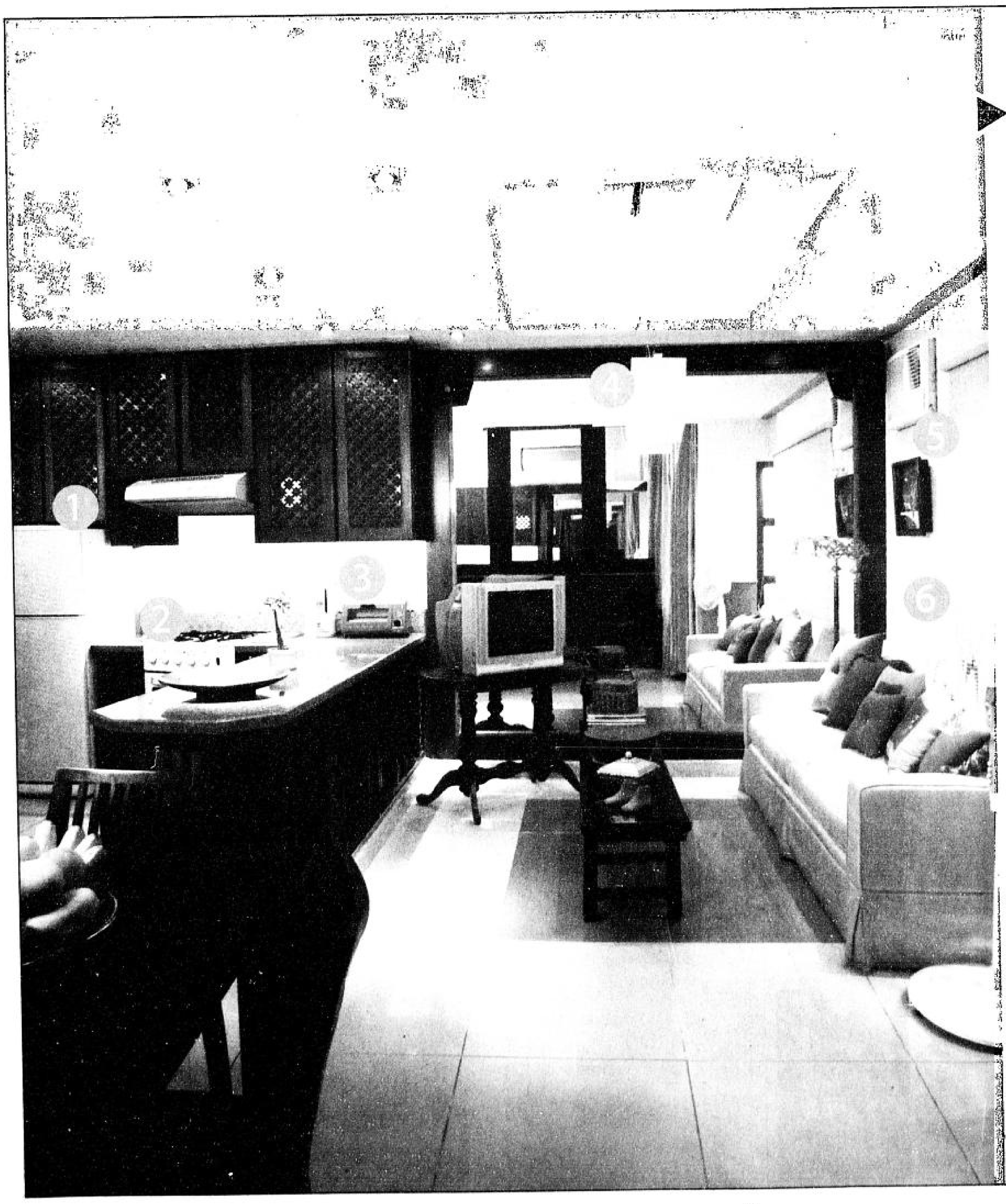
Fashion mag for men

DSQUARED2 green T-shirt, khaki denim jacket, white jeans and leather belt with big buckle

If you think only women are interested in fashion catalogues, think again. Rustan's will unveil R Men, its latest catalog-type magazine that will carry trends in men's fashion, on July 5.

The magazine is the result of a recent partnership with Samsung, a leading name in mobile phones and electronics. The alliance, through the magazine, will monitor developments in the finest men's fashion labels.

International lensman Darren Tieste takes the photographs for the magazine that features models Mall Gordon and Mall Ligett showing off must-haves in fashion, gadgets and accessories. Showcased are the latest collections of DSquared, Rykiel, Marcs and Rustan's private labels Salt and Black Label Homme, alongside such lines as Italy's Ermenegildo Zegna and Alfred Dunhill.



1. Place refrigerators at least 4 inches from the wall to give it enough room to breathe. Heat can cause the motor and the compressor to use more energy.

2. Switch off the electric stove during the last minutes of cooking. The remaining heat will allow the food to simmer.

3. Unplug all electrical appliances when not in use.

4. Clean bulbs regularly. Dirt lessens illumination by 50 percent.

5. Regularly clean the aircon filter and vacuum the outdoor coil to keep it working efficiently.

6. When using electric fans, lock the oscillator when the fan is needed in one direction only, thus, air is blown directly where needed.

Remember, appliances in good working order operate more efficiently.

The power
to save power.
All yours.

Meralco. The power to change power.

MERALCO

THIS "Flora" necklace (US$35,135) worn by Apples Aberin features a pendant consisting of 12 sapphires and pave diamonds.

PATTY Betita wears "Flora" three-row pendant studded with sapphires and pave diamonds (US$44,865). Her earrings consist of 10 sapphires (US$4,720) and several pave diamonds.

SEASONED mannequins, in corset gowns by Ann Chavez, shine in their "Floral" best. Tony and Guy did their hair and makeup.

Floral sparkle

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Joseph Agcaoili

BULGARI'S colorful "Flora" collection is currently in full bloom the world over, but at its recent launch in Manila, more than half of the available jewelry pieces were sold even before the night was over.

Mario Katigbak, Bulgari's country manager in the Philippines, purposely limited the number of pieces from the "Flora" series to nine. As usual, only the very rich —but not necessarily famous since most preferred anonymity—could afford to buy a piece or two of the high-end Italian jewelry brand.

Prices range from US$4,720 for a pair of stud earrings made of sapphires and diamonds set in yellow gold, to US$59,370 for a necklace made of pear-shaped sapphires and pave diamonds also set in yellow gold. Owing to the unstable peso, Bulgari in the Philippines has been pricing its merchandise in US dollars for several years now.

"We owe it to the wearer to give her some assurance of exclusivity," says Katigbak, who, as usual, chose to remain mum on the buyers' identities. "Those who weren't able to get a particular piece they wanted would have to buy it abroad. But even if they get the same item elsewhere, no two Bulgari pieces are exactly alike."

Exclusive party

Just like what he did in previous years, Katigbak hosted a party for a select group of loyal clients and media persons at Makati Shangri-La's Red. The sit-down dinner was inspired by the collection's floral motif as reflected in the table décor and certain items on the menu.

Unlike Bulgari's equally colorful "Allegra" series launched two years ago, the "Flora" collection highlights colored sapphires in favor of semi-precious stones such as aquamarines, topazes, amethysts and pink tourmalines.

Not a few people equate sapphires with the color blue. In truth, however, sapphires also come in such colors as hot pink, violet, green and yellow. Since they're considered precious stones, says Katigbak, sapphires belong to the same league as emeralds, rubies and diamonds.

"As far as I know," he says, "the 'Flora' is Bulgari's first colored sapphire collection. Apart from bridging the gap between Bulgari's precious and semi-precious collections, it marks the brand's return to more high-end pieces. There's a market out there because economies are getting better worldwide."

This isn't saying that Bulgari's more recent collections are low-end or inferior. "Flora" simply raises the bar a few notches higher because of its costlier price range and the rare stones that make up each piece.

"Personally, I think color adds brilliance to a particular piece," says Katigbak. "Bulgari has always been strong in coming up with pieces made of colored stones."

Quality and design

But color or no color, Katigbak vouches for Bulgari's emphasis on quality and user-friendly design. Bulgari's necklaces, for instance, falls constantly flat on the chest, a fit that has yet to be matched even by the brand's most determined copycats.

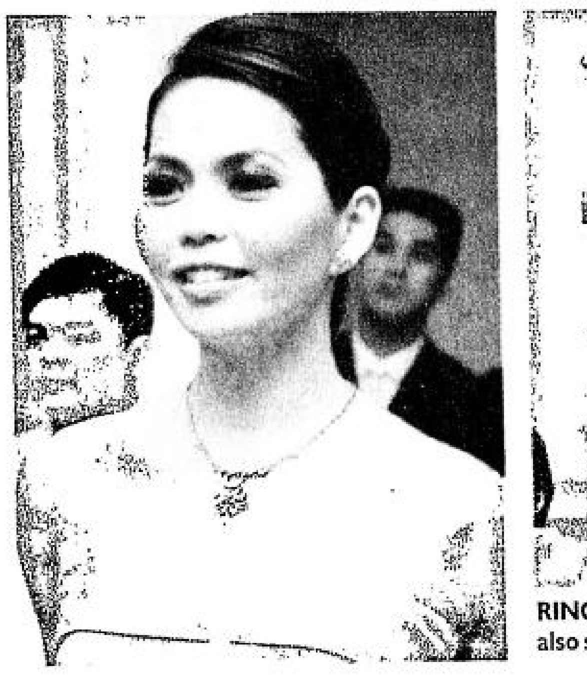
Each component is securely fastened, such that even the most sought-after social butterfly can glide confidently during parties without fear of losing a precious stone or two.

The jewelry show directed by Jackie Aquino began and ended with a dance number by members of Whiplash. Garbed in body-hugging white costumes inspired by "A Midsummer Night's Dream," dancers oblivious to the rain performed on an outdoor ledge behind the restaurant's huge glass windows.

Katigbak and his team were able to sell two necklaces and a pair of earrings even before veteran mannequins Apples Aberin, Tweetie de Leon, Patty Betita and Suyen Chi had finished showing off the goods to a well-heeled crowd.

Before the evening was over, they were also able to secure reservations for a necklace and ring. Never before have flowers as pricey as these sold so quickly.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



SUYEN Chi in "Flora" necklace with five sapphires and pear-shaped pave diamonds (US$26,670)

RINGED lady dazzles 'em with "Flora" rings also set in yellow gold with 10 sapphires each.

NO matter where you look at it, a Bulgari piece is designed to show its best "face" forward.

DE LEON'S earrings as seen from a different angle. Sorry, this pair was one of the first items to go.

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WACOAL NEWS!
Wacoal

Power up your Style

Ms. Abbygale Arenas-De Leon
- Beauty Queen and Image Expert.

The corporate world poses challenges, especially for us women. Not only must we perform better, we also have to look good.

Let me share with you some simple, yet effective tips on power dressing. Know what fits you and the image you desire to project. Exude the confidence and authority you need to get the job done.

Wear minimal makeup.
Always look neat, fresh, and in control of almost anything with composure.

Accessorize simply.
Wear expensive-looking, yet elegant accessories. A simple stud or pearl earring will do.

The darker, the better.
Rich, dark colors like black, brown and maroon are more formal. If your job requires you to look trustworthy, hues of blue elicit trust.

Cover up.
Avoid too short, low-cut, or tight clothes. Long sleeved tops are power-dressing must-haves. Straight-lined tailored garments will also deliver the same effect.

Invest in your key garments.
Tops made of natural fiber fabrics are more corporate-looking than stretchable ones.

Shoulder to lean on.
You can look dependable and in command with shoulder pads.

Make sure your pants are not too tight.
Skimpy pants look rather casual. Crisp creases make you look in control and trustworthy.

Invest in quality shoes and belts.
These are subtle, yet powerful accessories to enhance your total look. Choose shoes with an elegant and classic shape, in plain, dark colors such as black and brown.

Power from within.
Make sure your underwear fits you and the kind of clothes you are going to wear. A pointed shape brassiere is specifically designed for corporate dressing. It should be able to withstand your suit or sweater's heavy material. Wear stockings with skirts or even with pants. This will add a more professional touch to your look. Make sure that it doesn't snag easily. It should fit you perfectly. It'll give you the support you need to be a confident power dresser.

Power up! Claim your place in the corporate world with your abilities and newfound fashion sense. Just keep these tips in mind. Always look for what best fits you and your image.

Know more about Wacoal's Perfect Fit Campaign. Visit their outlets and have your measurements taken. Know well what fits your body and style.

✂ Cut and present this coupon at any Wacoal counter for a free bag. Hurry while supply lasts

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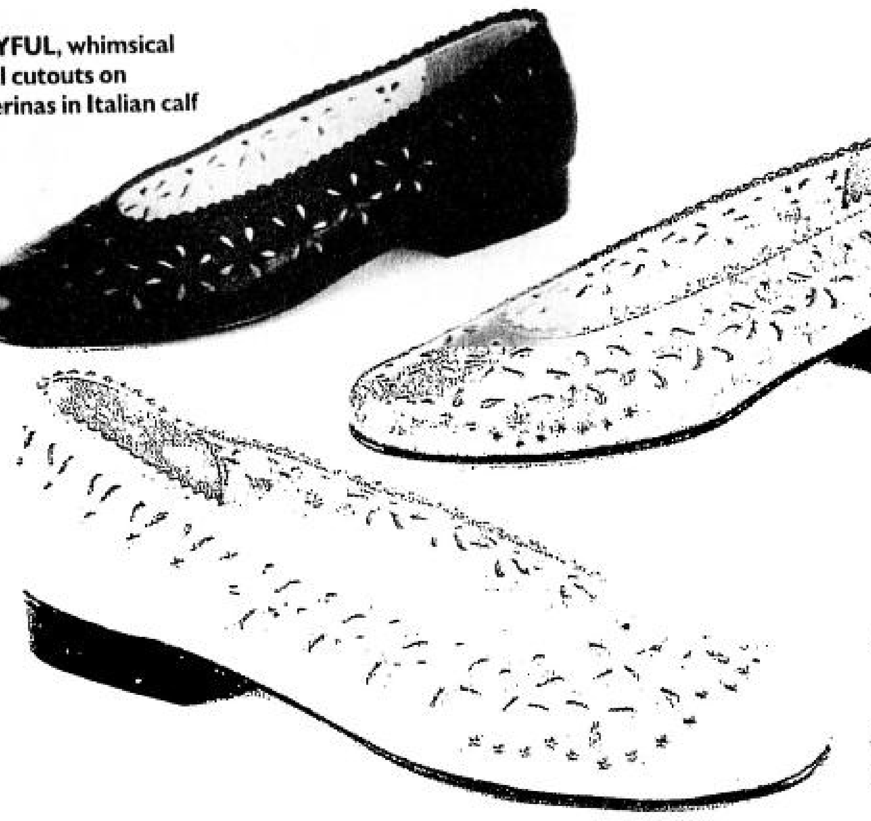


PLAYFUL, whimsical floral cutouts on ballerinas in Italian calf

PYTHON combined with kidskin for gorgeous texture

All shine and glamour

THE NEWEST collection from Via Venetto offers footwear that blends flights of fancy with sparkling glamour.

Stylish wedges start off the collection with Robert Clergerie's classic and sophisticated pieces of suede-topped, patent-leather heeled, ankle-strapped togs.

There's an updated French version of the Dutch clog. No clunky wood here, just a stretch fabric top cradling your feet for the ultimate in comfort and glamour.

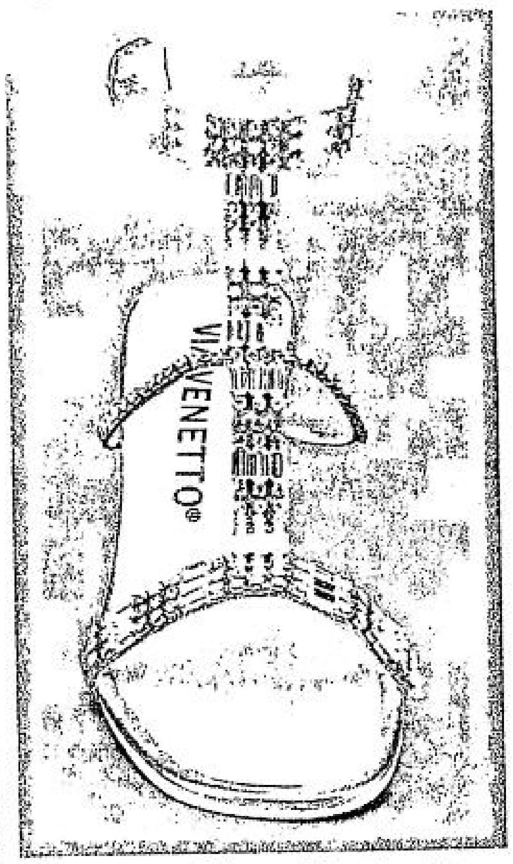
Via Venetto brings on rich textures with a combination of python and kidskin in dressy, feminine stilettos in color schemes to die for. But if you're in the mood for flats, ballerinas in gold, black or white with whimsical floral cutouts offer a comfortable change.

Then there's also Via Venetto's bejeweled thong in silver that perfectly dazzles night or day.

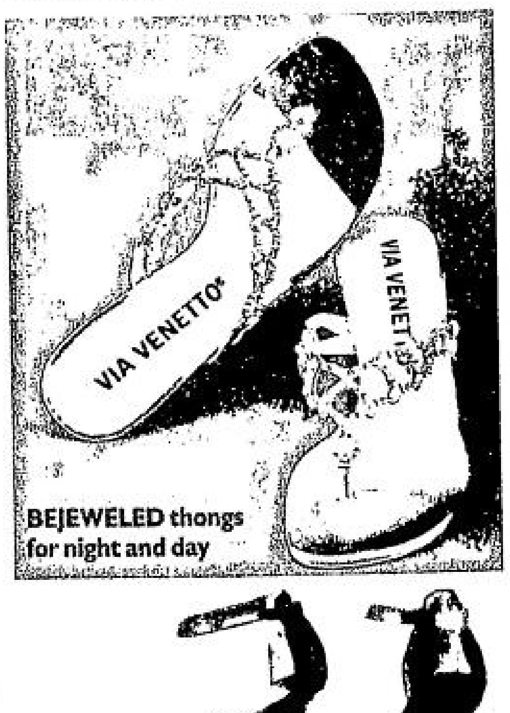
Next season's trend could be on your feet right now with a cutting-edge pair from Via Venetto. Faux pearls and sparkling crystals and gems hang playfully from this strappy piece, adding shimmer to your step.

For more shine, check out the rest of the cross-strapped metallic gold and silver pieces in the collection.

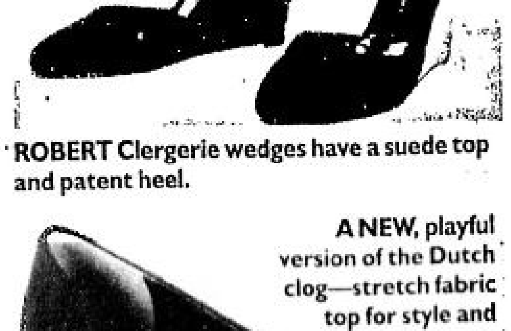
Via Venetto is located at Glorietta 1 Ayala Center, Greenbelt 1 Ayala Center, Alabang Town Center, SM Megamall Building A, SM City Annex North Edsa and SM Cebu.



GLAMOUR equals lots and lots of sparkle and shine on your feet.

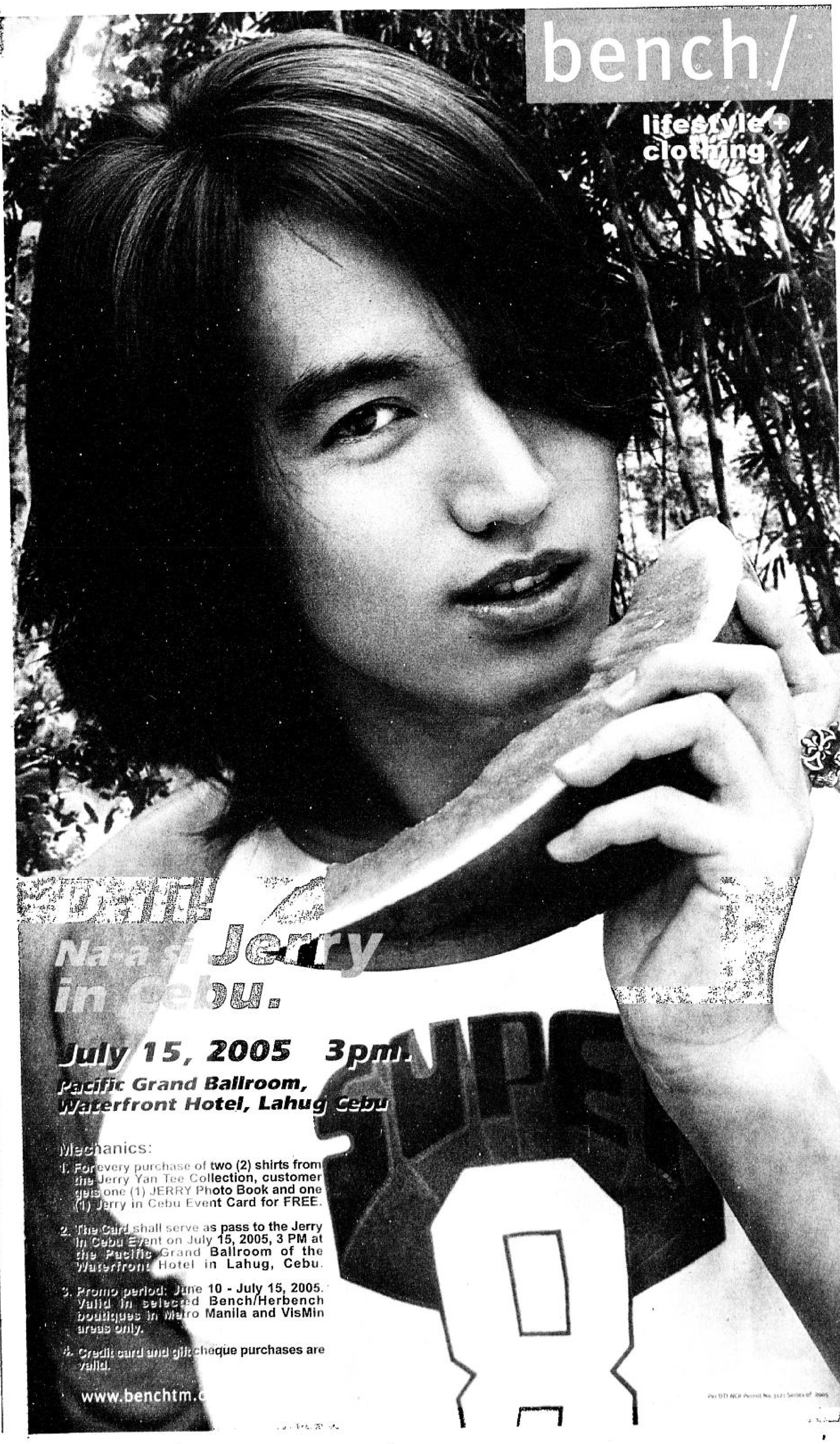


BEJEWELED thongs for night and day



ROBERT Clergerie wedges have a suede top and patent heel.

A NEW, playful version of the Dutch clog—stretch fabric top for style and ultra comfort.



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Na-a si Jerry in Cebu.

July 15, 2005 3pm.
Pacific Grand Ballroom,
Waterfront Hotel, Lahug Cebu

Mechanics:

1. For every purchase of two (2) shirts from the Jerry Yan Tee Collection, customer gets one (1) JERRY Photo Book and one (1) Jerry in Cebu Event Card for FREE.
2. The Card shall serve as pass to the Jerry in Cebu Event on July 15, 2005, 3 PM at the Pacific Grand Ballroom of the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu.
3. Promo period: June 10 - July 15, 2005. Valid in selected Bench/Herbench boutiques in Metro Manila and VisMin areas only.
4. Credit card and gift cheque purchases are valid.

www.benchtm.c

Per DTI NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2005

The Superlative Seven

By Andre Palma

The business of luxury is anchored on delivering unique products with the right characteristics of elegance and substance. This task is made even more difficult when the article being sold is a luxury automobile — as it must also express the heights of comfort, technology, and driving dynamics. It is the perfect blend of these elements that have made the BMW 7 Series the most successful luxury car in its class.

As BMW never ceases to build on its success, a new and enhanced 7 Series now makes its debut. BMW's latest offer to the ultra elite segment stresses improvements in three areas, namely: (1) a new suspension system that delivers maximum motoring comfort; (2) a new line of engines that provide more power at less or equal fuel consumption; and (3) added technological features for passenger comfort, entertainment and safety.

Design enhancements have likewise been executed to communicate these core changes — alluding to more power, comfort and luxuriousness, while continuing the unique character and strong presence of the 7 Series.

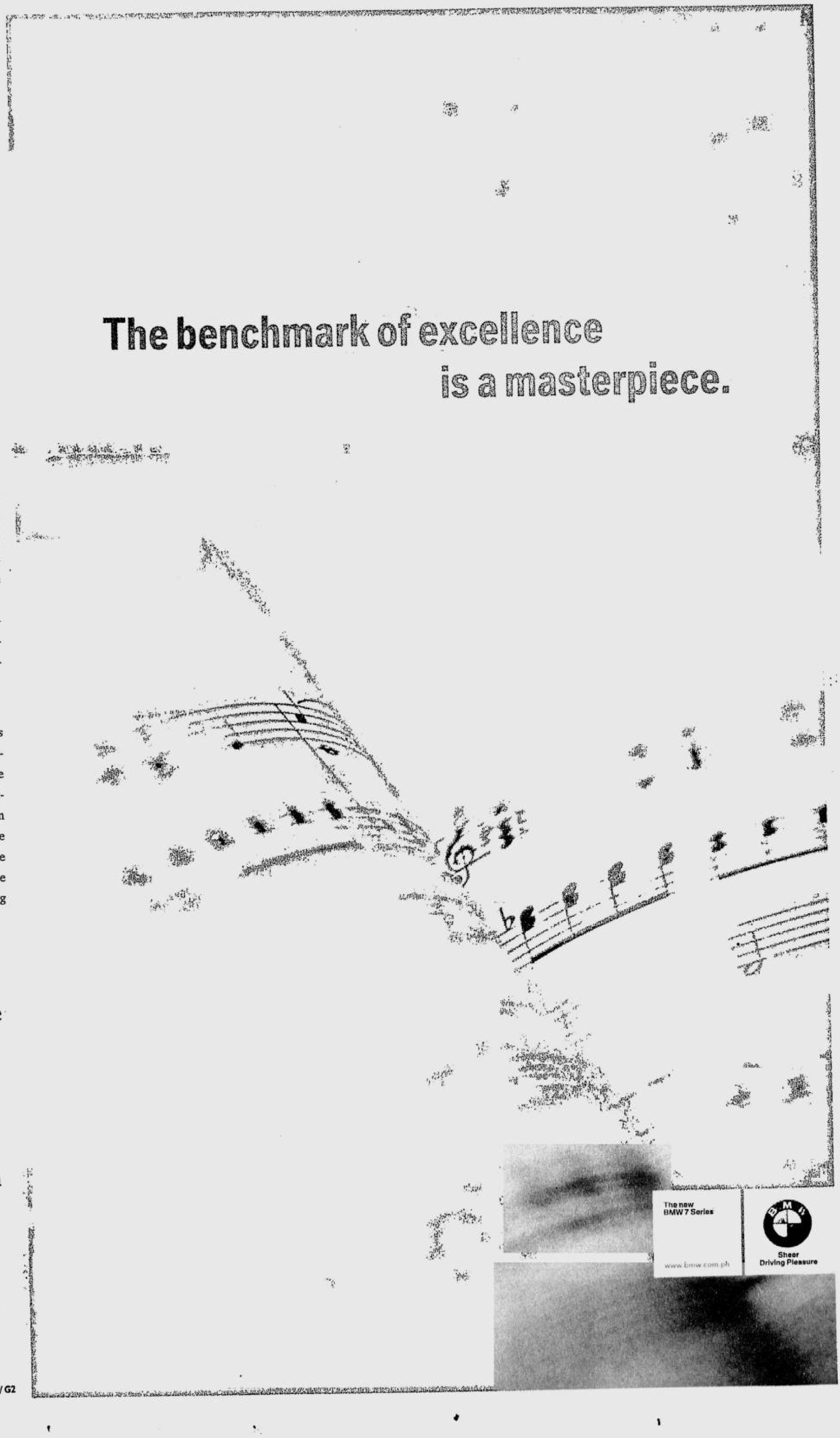
The result of all these enhancements in design and engineering is what is now considered as the most comfortable luxury limousine in the world.

Luxurious comfort

The new BMW 7 Series delivers on its promise of supreme comfort due to an all-aluminum chassis and BMW's Adaptive Drive suspension centered on a continuously adjustable electronic damper control system (EDC-C). Both systems allow the owner of the new 7 Series to enjoy extremely comfortable grand touring qualities on one hand, and the ability to drive their car in a truly sporting

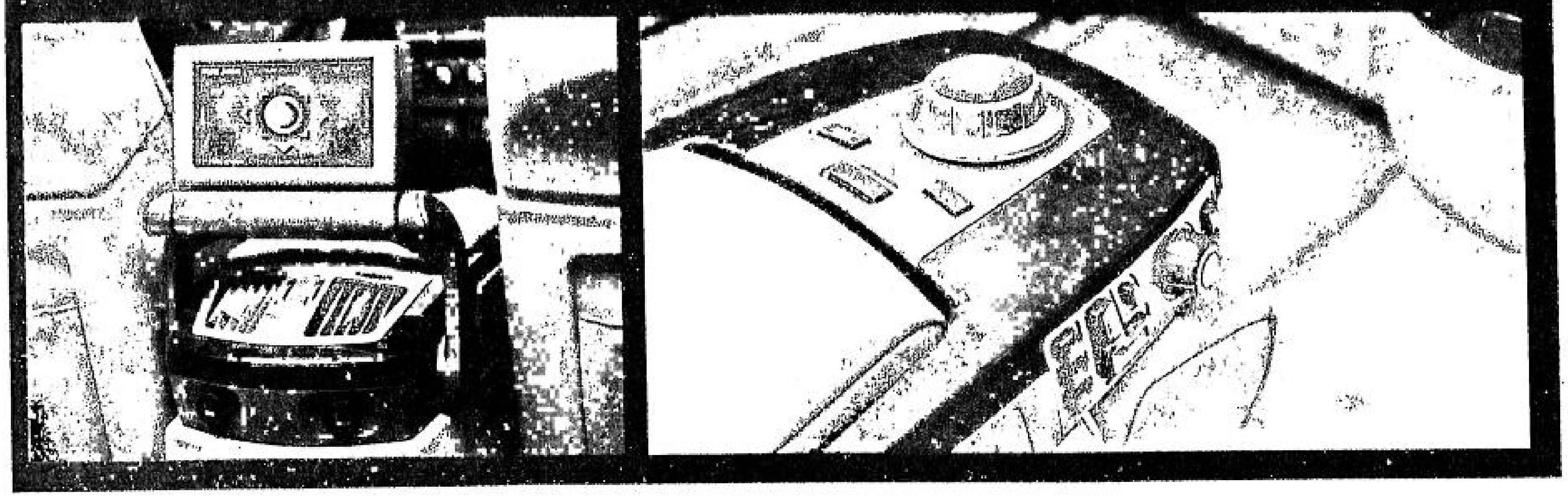
> The new BMW 7 Series delivers on its promise of supreme comfort due to its an all-aluminum chassis and BMW's Adaptive Drive suspension centered on a continuously adjustable electronic damper control system (EDC-C)

SUPERLATIVE/ G2



The Superlative Seven

From page G1



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style on the other.

The standard aluminum chassis and suspension arms imbibe the chassis with the ability to display well balanced driving characteristics at all times, ensuring the utmost comfort of the driver and passengers. Enhanced axle movement and a 14-mm wider rear track enhance the stable, road holding capability of the vehicle, even in the hands of the ambitious motorist. Reduced unsprung weights, due to the intelligent use of extra-lightweight aluminum, set the foundation for the nimbleness and precision that is characteristic of BMW luxury performance saloons.

The system most crucial to the dual performance and comfort competence of the new BMW 7 Series is the highly innovative Dynamic Drive combined with the Adaptive Drive function and its black box EDC-C continuously adjustable damper control system. This unique combination results in an unprecedented synthesis of outstanding driving dynamics and maximum motoring comfort.

BMW's Dynamic Drive largely filters out bumps on sketchy sections of road via fully variable roll bars, virtually completely suppressing any body sway. Passengers are the biggest benefactors of this significantly reduced body sway since they are generally focused less on the driving conditions around them and thus tend to be more surprised and affected by any sudden reactions of the car's chassis.

EDC-C adds to the car's enhanced driving dynamics and motoring comfort by continuously and infinitely adapting to the changing road, driving and load conditions. It allows the vehicle's ride quality to be changed from extreme comfort all the way to sporting and dynamic. This is in contrast to conventional suspension dampers that are always either or a compromise between these two extremes. It can be said that the suspension of the new 7 Series solves this conflict of interest once and for all.

Intelligent space

The interior of the new BMW 7 Series is a statement of modern luxury, and generously offers roominess and comfort. Combining quality material finish and build with the iDrive Control System, we see another area of

> EDC-C adds to the car's enhanced driving dynamics and motoring comfort by continuously and infinitely adapting to the changing road, driving and load conditions. It allows the vehicle's ride quality to be changed from extreme comfort all the way to sporting and dynamic.

The benchmark of comfort is
the new BMW 7 Series
7

The new
BMW 7 Series

www.bmw.com.ph

Sheer
Driving Pleasure

M SV 4230
750Li

l the iDrive Control System
and far left), The 7 Series shows
e form meets function. A wide
ow-looking rear stance (right) is
ved despite the higher boot lid

The new BMW 7 Series embodies innovation at its finest. With the new suspension system in combination with the rear seat orientation, the new BMW 7 Series redefines the standard of riding comfort.

- Adaptive Drive together with the self-leveling suspension makes the transition between a dynamic and a comfortable ride effortless.
- Rear seat orientation with electronically reclinable seats, video monitor, 6-disc DVD changer and 13 speakers powered by the LOGIC7 professional audio system provide the latest in passenger entertainment and comfort.
- New engines offer increased power with improved fuel consumption. Motoring refinement and noise management have been enhanced to a higher level, for a more comfortable and quiet ride.

The new BMW 7 Series. It represents a new philosophy of life.

The new BMW 7 Series expresses refinements in the vehicle's visual signature while staying consistent with BMW's overall design philosophy. The 7 preserves its powerful presence and clearly stands out on the road through its charismatic, elegant and truly unique exterior bodywork.

the 7 where form meets function.

Characterized by clear lines of design, as well as surface finishes accentuated by rich wood trim, the interior makes for a functional and uncluttered appearance. Controls and instruments are brought together in BMW's typical "insular design" theme, where common functions are combined in groups and differentiated in discreetly contrasting colors. American Walnut trim is chosen over the previously utilized light or dark Black Cherry wood of the previous 7 Series, adding to the luxurious boardroom ambiance that prevails in the vehicle's interior.

The iDrive Controller, the central means of accessing comfort and entertainment functions of the 7 Series, has also been visually integrated in its own instrument and controller cluster. An iDrive Controller in the rear, as well as a folding rear monitor now come as standard, offering information and entertainment directly to the driven.

Aside from the rear iDrive Controller and monitor, a wide range of technological features adds to the comfort and entertainment of rear passengers, including separate air-conditioners, fully adjustable comfort seats, and BMW's Logic 7 Entertainment System with full TV, DVD, CD, and MP3 functions.

Efficient power

Completing the evolution of the 7 Series is the migration to newer, more powerful engines that provide more horsepower and torque — at less or equal fuel consumption. All the new 7 Series engines excel though their high power output per liter, their wide practical speed range, ample torque curves and excellent refinement and response. All these engines' seemingly contradictory, but very effective characteristics emphasize "Efficient Dynamics", the guiding principle of BMW engine construction.

Muscle is the right word to describe the top shelf 4.8-liter V8 power plant that finds itself in the engine bay of the 750i. This engine develops 367bhp at 6,300 rpm while pulling a 490Nm torque figure at a mere 3,400 rpm. Given this kind of power, the dynamic 750i's hefty 1910kg frame sprints to 100 kph in just under six seconds. This new engine also consumes the same amount of fuel of the "smaller" 4.4-liter power unit of the previous 7 Series — both do a factory claimed EU Cycle 8.8 km per liter.

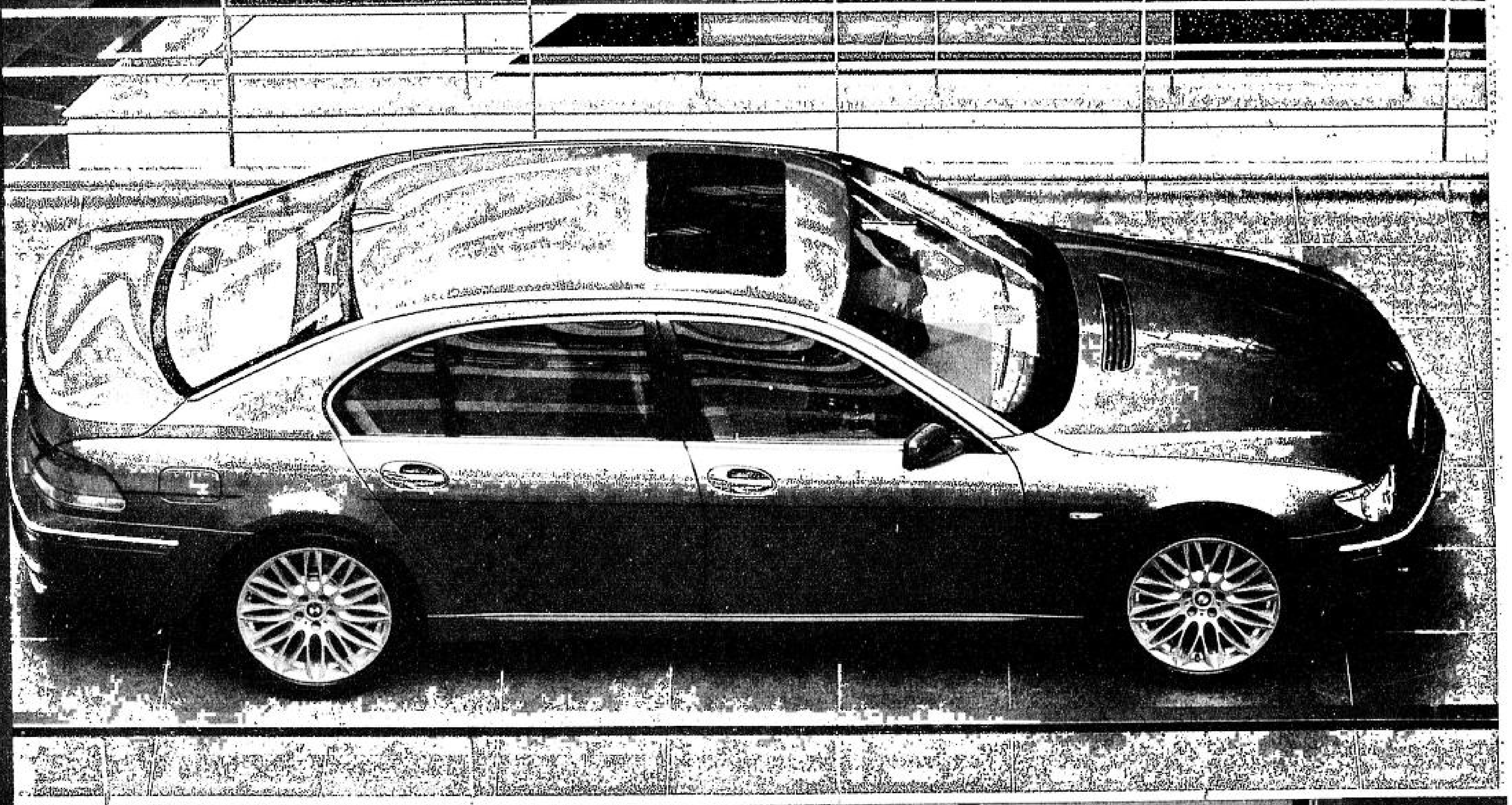
The 750i's engine delivers throttle-free load management by way of BMW's Valvetronic fully variable valve drive. Engine output is no longer controlled by the mechanical throttle butterfly, but rather by electronics via the period of time that the valve is open. This results in a significant decrease in both fuel consumption and emissions.

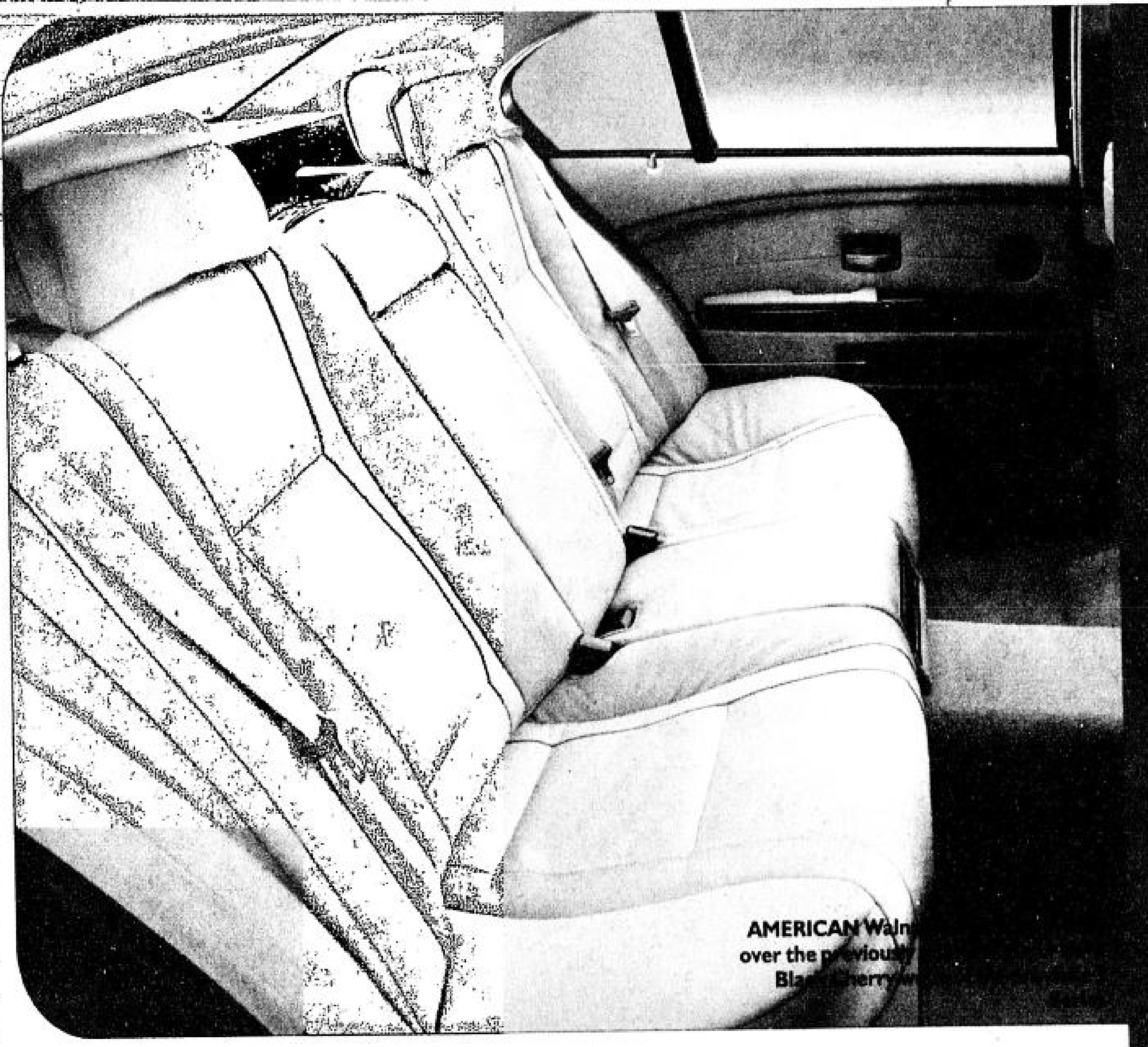
Complementing Valvetronic is the double-Vanos fully variable valve timing system. This controls the individual intake and outlet phases of the engine resulting in copious

SUPERLATIVE/ G4

The Superlative Seven

From page G3





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amounts of torque at low engine speeds and seemingly bottomless power during high-speed driving.

Also available is a 3.0-liter straight six that is executed in the finest tradition of sporty BMW inline-6 engines. This power unit found in the 730i's engine bay develops 258bhp at 6,600 rpm and 300Nm of torque at 3,500rpm. This power unit features a composite magnesium/aluminum crankcase and is only a mere 161kgs and is the lightest six-cylinder in this performance segment in the world today. Owing to the sporting nature of such an engine, the 1,805kg 730i is hurtled to 100 kph in just under eight seconds and the speedometer dial tops out at 244 kph. Again, because of BMW's "Efficient Dynamics" concept, the 730i is good for 9.9 km/l of consumption, representing a 5-percent increase in fuel efficiency over its predecessor.

Six-speed automatic transmissions with the Steptronic gear selection system are standard on all the models. Anti-lock Brakes and BMW's Dynamic Stability Control, a system which offers safety in even the most diverse driving conditions, also come as standard on all 7 Series models.

A new Brake Force Display system is likewise in place, which triggers larger and brighter brake lights when the driver applies higher than usual pressure to the break pedal. This provides a more advanced warning to motorists from behind, thereby making a considerable contribution to active safety.

Sheer presence

The new BMW 7 Series expresses refinements in the vehicle's visual signature while staying consistent with BMW's overall design philosophy. The 7 preserves its powerful presence and clearly stands out on the road through its charismatic, elegant and truly unique exterior bodywork.

A more present and striking "powerdome" adorns the vehicle's hood, hinting at the more capable engines that have been tasked to provide true muscle. The neo-classic kidney grille has been enlarged, reminding those who see the car's front fascia of the pedigree behind the marquee — one of pioneering performance characteristics present since the dawn of the modern automobile. Discreet revisions continue at the front end of the car, with the xenon headlights and front air dam sporting new shapes and angles that merge with both the already outstanding contours of the hood and grille.

The vehicle's sides further emphasize the enhanced sportiness and dynamic character of the new BMW 7 Series. With more evident light contours at the side sills, also by moving the windscreen 20 mm higher and slanting it further back to take the line of the new front end, the 7 Series now looks sleeker with a stretched-out appearance.

Seen from the rear, the vehicle now sports a wide and low-looking stance and this is done despite raising the boot lid height by 3 mm. Highlighting the trunk area is a chrome bar that harmoniously unites the horizontal orientation of the rear lights. The more powerfully contoured surfaces are tamed by a softer transition from the rear side panels to the boot and rear bumper. With the track width of the vehicle wider by 14 mm, a redesigned bumper and aerodynamic diffuser are out in place to complete a simonized wrap around effect. Finishing the revised rear is a discreet and functional rear spoiler that optimizes the car's wind tunnel profile but also aesthetically sealing a streamlined, dynamic and powerful appearance.

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Two Sevens in one

The new BMW 7 Series conveys competence in both presence and performance, and it can even be said that it is two cars in one. It is a genuine BMW displaying the dynamic virtues that have endeared the brand to those who seek Sheer Driving Pleasure through capable automobiles with market leading technology. In its other capacity, the new 7 Series is a true luxury saloon with unparalleled space and comfort, both front and rear, making it ideal transportation for those who are chauffeured.

Few vehicles of this rare class truly deliver pleasure — both in the classic driving sense of the word, and in terms of the sheer joy of being driven.